

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4629.)

F.O.
403

PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.

22

1881.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|------|
| 1 | General Menabrea .. | .. | June 30, 1881 | Corrects some mistakes in telegram from M. Cairoli of May 7 published in Blue Book .. | 1 |
| 2 | Mr. Reade .. | 69 Telegraphic | July 1, | An insurrection has broken out in southern provinces. Sfax and Gabes occupied by insurgents .. | 1 |
| 3 | Lord Lyons .. | 637 | 1, | Discussion in Chamber of Deputies on recent events in province of Oran .. | 2 |
| 4 | " .. | 639 Confidential | 1, | French Government appears to be pursuing the establishment of its supremacy in Tunis .. | 2 |
| 5 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 2, | Transmits copies of telegrams from Captain of "Monarch" respecting Sfax disturbances, and dispatch thither of a second French iron-clad .. | 3 |
| 6 | " .. | .. | 2, | Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" ordered to Sfax. Her Majesty's ship "Condor" available also if required .. | 3 |
| 7 | To Mr. Reade .. | 35 Telegraphic | 2, | Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" ordered to Sfax .. | 4 |
| 8 | Mr. Reade .. | 70 Telegraphic | 2, | Proceedings of insurgents at Sfax. Some Maltese fired upon and one killed .. | 4 |
| 9 | To Lord Lyons .. | 631 | 2, | Dispatch of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" to Sfax. To inform French Government respecting .. | 4 |
| 10 | To Mr. Reade .. | 43 | 2, | Extends No. 7 .. | 4 |
| 11 | Admiralty .. | .. | 2, | Telegram from Captain Tryon reports arrival at the Goletta of refugees from Sfax .. | 5 |
| 12 | Mr. Reade .. | 65 | June 24, | Respecting concession for commercial business granted to M. Daninos .. | 5 |
| 13 | " .. | 66 | 24, | Difference between Heir Apparent and future Prime Minister. (His telegram No. 64.) Explanations respecting .. | 5 |
| 14 | Porto to Musurus Pasha .. | Telegraphic | July 2, | Repels assertion of some French newspapers that Porto is responsible for disturbances at Sfax .. | 6 |
| 15 | To Lord Lyons .. | 632 | 4, | Export of cattle and corn from Tunis to Malta. Copy from War Office of the 29th June respecting .. | 6 |
| 16 | Lord Lyons .. | 642 | 4, | Has acted on instructions in No. 6. Reply of M. B. St. Hilaire respecting .. | 6 |
| 17 | " .. | 644 | 4, | Action of Turks in Tripoli. Warning addressed to Porto by French Government respecting .. | 7 |
| 18 | " .. | 645 | 4, | Anomalous position of M. Roustan at Tunis. M. St. Hilaire is considering means of establishing a satisfactory organization .. | 7 |
| 19 | " .. | 646 | 4, | Visit of Mustapha Pasha to Tunis. No negotiations whatever have taken place with .. | 7 |
| 20 | Colonial Office .. | .. | 4, | Arrival at Malta of British refugees from Sfax. Departure of Her Majesty's ships "Monarch" and "Condor" and 650 French troops for Sfax. Action taken on behalf of British subjects for losses at Sfax .. | 8 |
| 21 | Mr. Reade .. | 71 Telegraphic | 4, | Approves his calling on British subjects to pay their contributions to Tunis Municipality as requested by M. Roustan. Further instructions .. | 8 |
| 22 | To Mr. Reade .. | 44 | 4, | Opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to changes introduced into the constitution of Finance Commission in Tunis .. | 8 |
| 23 | To General Menabrea .. | .. | 5, | Requests that one of Her Majesty's ships be stationed at the Goletta for the present .. | 8 |
| 24 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 5, | Change of Tunisian Consulate at Gibraltar transferred to French Consul. Despatch from Governor respecting .. | 9 |
| 25 | Colonial Office .. | .. | 6, | Export of cattle and corn from Tunis. Wants Governor of Malta to report any evidence of restrictions imposed on .. | 9 |
| 26 | To Colonial Office .. | .. | 6, | Forwards copy of telegram from "Monarch" relative to state of affairs at Sfax .. | 10 |
| 27 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 7, | Bombardment of Sfax by French gun-boats on 5th instant. Telegram from Her Majesty's ship "Condor" respecting .. | 10 |
| 28 | " .. | Confidential | 7, | .. | 11 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|---|--------------|--------------|---|------|
| 39 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | July 7, 1891 | Steps taken to ensure presence of a ship-of-war at the Goletta (see No. 24) .. | 11 |
| 40 | " .. | Confidential | 7. | Bombardment of Sfax. Telegram from "Monarch" .. | 12 |
| 41 | Rev. E. Frankel .. | " .. | 6. | Appropriation of English Church land at Tunis by M. Roustan .. | 13 |
| 42 | Admiralty .. | " .. | 8. | Her Majesty's ship "Iris" will leave Trieste for Tunis on 9th instant (see No. 39) .. | 13 |
| 43 | " .. | Confidential | 9. | Bombardment of Sfax. Further telegram respecting, from Her Majesty's ship "Condor" .. | 14 |
| 44 | Mr. Reade .. | 72 | 8. | Bombardment of Sfax commenced 5th instant. Town batteries returned the fire .. | 14 |
| 45 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 291 | 9. | Italian Consul at Tunis instructed to concert with Mr. Reade for protection of British and Italian subjects on southern coast of Tunis .. | 14 |
| 46 | Sir H. Elliot .. | 334 | 8. | Austrian Government avoid expressing any opinion relative to Porte's protest respecting French proceedings .. | 14 |
| 47 | Mr. Reade .. | 70 | 2. | Extends No. 8 .. | 15 |
| 48 | " .. | 71 | 4. | Extends No. 21 .. | 15 |
| 49 | " .. | 80 | 6. | Forwards Report by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sfax of principal occurrences in connection with the insurrection .. | 15 |
| 50 | Sir A. Paget .. | 291 | 8. | Conversation with M. Mancini respecting French operations at Sfax, and position of international relations at Tunis .. | 21 |
| 51 | Mr. West .. | 144 | 8. | Marquis de la Vega de Armijo denies report of a Treaty between France and Spain respecting Morocco .. | 22 |
| 52 | Admiralty .. | " .. | 9. | Outbreak at Sfax. Letter from "Monarch" respecting .. | 22 |
| 53 | Porte to Musurus Pasha .. | Confidential | 7. | Calls attention to threats of French Government with reference to measures taken by Porte in Tripoli .. | 24 |
| 54 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 11. | State of affairs at Sfax. Telegrams from "Monarch" and "Condor" respecting .. | 25 |
| 55 | Colonial Office .. | " .. | 11. | Reports further arrival of refugees at Malta from Sfax .. | 25 |
| 56 | Mr. Reade .. | 73 | 11. | Bombardment of Sfax continued. All quiet at Sfax. Arrival of French troops from Toulon .. | 26 |
| 57 | General Menabrea .. | Confidential | 12. | Remarks on consequences of the Treaty of the 11th May between France and Tunis .. | 26 |
| 58 | To Mr. Reade .. | 56 | 12. | Is it true that a British landowner in Tunis has been told that his real property cannot be sold without the consent of M. Roustan? .. | 26 |
| 59 | To Earl of Dufferin .. | 484 | 12. | Transmits copy of No. 43. Conversation with Musurus Pasha respecting .. | 27 |
| 60 | Admiralty .. | " .. | 12. | Forwards copies of two letters from "Monarch" reporting proceedings at Sfax, and inclosing sketch of the place .. | 27 |
| 61 | " .. | " .. | 13. | Forwards copy of telegram from "Monarch" with regard to threatening news from Tripoli .. | 29 |
| 62 | Mr. Reade .. | 75 | 13. | Reports current as to what took place with reference to No. 48. M. Roustan denies truth of .. | 30 |
| 63 | " .. | 81 | 7. | Departure of his Italian colleague. He will be the only Representative left holding diplomatic as well as Consular rank .. | 30 |
| 64 | " .. | 82 | 7. | New gold coin introduced into Regency with Imperial title omitted .. | 30 |
| 65 | Lord Lyons .. | 678 | 13. | Departure of French Mediterranean squadron from Toulon for Gabes .. | 31 |
| 66 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 13. | Further respecting steps taken to ensure presence of British naval force in Tunisian waters .. | 31 |
| 67 | " .. | " .. | 13. | Copy of telegram from "Monarch" relative to attack on Sfax .. | 31 |
| 68 | To Lord Lyons (also to Sir A. Paget) .. | 671 | 15. | Transmits copy of No. 44 .. | 32 |
| 69 | To Lord Lyons .. | 676 | 15. | Her Majesty's Government could not view with indifference any interference on part of France in Tripoli. To warn French Government .. | 32 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---|------|
| 60 | To Admiralty .. | " .. | July 13, 1891 | Forwards copy of No. 55 .. | 33 |
| 61 | Lord Lyons .. | 683 | 15. | Embarkation of French troops at Marseilles for Oran. Despatch from Consul Mark .. | 33 |
| 62 | To Lord Lyons .. | 272 | 16. | May act on No. 59. Alteration in second paragraph .. | 33 |
| 63 | " .. | 280 | 16. | Further alteration to be made in No. 59 .. | 33 |
| 64 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 17. | Telegram from "Monarch" reporting capture of Sfax by French troops .. | 34 |
| 65 | Mr. Reade .. | 72 | 8. | Extends No. 34 .. | 34 |
| 66 | " .. | 73 | 11. | Extends No. 46 .. | 34 |
| 67 | " .. | 83 | 13. | Insurrection at Sfax. Further narrative of events connected with, from Vice-Consul Gabes .. | 34 |
| 68 | Lord Lyons .. | 688 | 17. | Has informed M. St. Hilaire of views of Her Majesty's Government regarding Tripoli (see No. 59). M. St. Hilaire's reply .. | 38 |
| 69 | Mr. Reade .. | 77 | 18. | Sfax occupied by French yesterday. Bey's authority re-established .. | 39 |
| 70 | To Lord Lyons .. | 685 | 18. | Her Majesty's Government approve manner in which he has carried out his instructions respecting Tripoli (see No. 68) .. | 39 |
| 71 | To Sir J. Walsham .. | 316A | 18. | German Ambassador confidentially informed of instructions to Lord Lyons respecting Tunis. To convey to Mr. Lamsdell the approval of Her Majesty's Government for the manner in which he assisted the escape of the European residents at Sfax (see No. 39) .. | 40 |
| 72 | To Mr. Reade .. | 45 | 18. | Conversation with Spanish Minister on the subject of Morocco .. | 40 |
| 73 | To Mr. West .. | 76A | 18. | Presence of Her Majesty's ships in Tunisian waters. Concurs in arrangements proposed in No. 56 .. | 40 |
| 74 | To Admiralty .. | Confidential | 18. | Forwards copies of two letters from Captain of "Monarch" reporting his proceedings and movements of Her Majesty's ships .. | 41 |
| 75 | Admiralty .. | " .. | 18. | Reports robbery of Bey's camels from the Gards. Whole country in a state of anarchy. Substance of communication from French Government with reference to Tripoli, in reply to No. 68 .. | 42 |
| 76 | Mr. Reade .. | 78 | 18. | Assistance rendered at Malta to refugees from Sfax. Despatch from Governor respecting .. | 43 |
| 77 | To Mr. Adams .. | 686A | 19. | Enfida question. Mr. Levy summoned to appear before the Mefti Court .. | 44 |
| 78 | Colonial Office .. | " .. | 19. | Extends No. 52 .. | 44 |
| 79 | Mr. Reade .. | 74 | 12. | Forwards telegram from Commander of "Condor" reporting capture of Sfax .. | 44 |
| 80 | " .. | 75 | 13. | Excitement at Tripoli. Troops exercised daily. Telegram respecting read by Italian Ambassador .. | 45 |
| 81 | Admiralty .. | " .. | 18. | Error in telegram from M. Cairoli published in "Tunis No. 6." Shall be rectified in next Blue Book .. | 45 |
| 82 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 202 | 21. | Concession granted by Bey to M. Daninos is opposed to Treaty between Great Britain and Tunis of the 19th July, 1875 .. | 45 |
| 83 | To General Menabrea .. | " .. | 21. | French Government declare that under no circumstances will their troops be allowed to cross Tripoli frontier .. | 46 |
| 84 | Law Officers .. | " .. | 20. | Italian note verbal on consequences of Franco-Tunisian Treaty. Does not call for any special observation .. | 46 |
| 85 | Mr. Adams .. | 701 | 21. | Statement in yesterday's "Times" respecting Enfida question. To call M. St. Hilaire's attention to .. | 47 |
| 86 | Law Officers .. | " .. | 21. | Arrival of Turkish troops and arms in Tripoli. Measures taken by new Vall. Anxiety of the population .. | 47 |
| 87 | To Mr. Adams .. | 281 | 22. | Has informed M. St. Hilaire that Her Majesty's Government consider his assurances respecting Tripoli as satisfactory .. | 47 |
| 88 | Consul-General Drummond Hay .. | 2 | 16. | | |
| 89 | Mr. Adams .. | 712 | 24. | | |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|--|------|
| 90 | General Menabrea .. | Memo. | July 25, 1881 | Latest information received by Italian Government from their Consul in Tripoli .. | 48 |
| 91 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 338 Telegraphic | 25. | Porte state confidentially that they do not propose to raise force in Tripoli to more than 6,000 or 7,000 men .. | 48 |
| 92 | Mr. Reade .. | 77 | 17. | Extends No. 69.. | 48 |
| 93 | " .. | 78 | 18. | Extends No. 76.. | 48 |
| 94 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 25. | Transmits copy of telegram from Admiralty directing return of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" to Sfax .. | 49 |
| 95 | To Earl of Dufferin .. | 396 Telegraphic | 26. | Communications respecting Tripoli, including assurances received from French Government respecting, are being presented to Parliament .. | 49 |
| 96 | Mr. Adams .. | 62 Telegraphic | 26. | Passage in speech of Minister for Foreign Affairs with respect to his communication to Her Majesty's Government as to Tripoli .. | 49 |
| 97 | " .. | 64 Telegraphic | 26. | French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople telegraphs that Porte deny intention of dispatching more troops to Tripoli .. | 49 |
| 98 | To Earl of Dufferin .. | 395 Telegraphic | 26. | To inform Porte and Sultan of views of Her Majesty's Government regarding Tripoli .. | 50 |
| 99 | To Mr. Macdonell .. | 323 | 26. | Extends above .. | 50 |
| 100 | To Mr. Macdonell .. | 320 | 26. | Including copy of No. 86 .. | 51 |
| 101 | Mr. Adams .. | 717 | 25. | Further movements of French troops in connection with operations in Algeria and Tunis. Despatch from Consul Mark .. | 51 |
| 102 | " .. | 721 | 26. | Criticisms of Duc de Broglie in French Senate on Convention of the 12th May. M. St. Hilaire's reply .. | 51 |
| 103 | " .. | 725 | 26. | Extends No. 57.. | 52 |
| 104 | " .. | 726 | 26. | Extends secret paragraph in No. 57.. | 52 |
| 105 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 64 Secret | 20. | Comments on language reported by M. Adelo to have been held to his brother by Sultan of Morocco. Alleged intention of France and Spain to partition Morocco .. | 53 |
| 106 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 340 Very Conf. Telegraphic | 29. | As to intention of Porte to send further reinforcements to Tripoli .. | 54 |
| 107 | Mr. Adams .. | 729 | 29. | Satisfaction of M. St. Hilaire at despatch to Lord Dufferin respecting Tripoli .. | 54 |
| 108 | " .. | 730 | 29. | Assurances received by M. St. Hilaire from Turkish Ambassador respecting dispatch of troops to Tripoli .. | 55 |
| 109 | " .. | 731 Secret | 29. | Reports language held to him by Turkish Ambassador with reference to above .. | 55 |
| 110 | Admiralty .. | " | 29. | Letter from "Monarch" respecting proceedings at Sfax and reboasting of his flag by British Consular Agent on order being re-established.. | 56 |
| 111 | " .. | " | 29. | Transmits copy of a letter from Captain of "Monarch" reporting his proceedings at Sfax .. | 56 |
| 112 | To Mr. Adams .. | 740 | 30. | French Ambassador has repeated in strongest terms the declarations as to the absence of any designs on the part of France against Tripoli .. | 57 |
| 113 | To Mr. Reade .. | 48 | 30. | Daninos concession. Her Majesty's Government must have further information respecting (see No. 84) .. | 57 |
| 114 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 604 | 25. | Extends No. 91.. | 58 |
| 115 | Admiralty .. | " | 29. | State of affairs at Sfax. Movements of Her Majesty's ship "Condor." Letter from Captain Tryon respecting .. | 58 |
| 116 | Mr. Reade .. | 83 | 27. | Bombardment at Sfax. Further Reports from British Consular Representatives at Sfax and Suse respecting .. | 60 |
| 117 | To Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 23 Secret | Aug. 2. | Her Majesty's Government approve advice given by him to Moorish Government as reported in No. 105 .. | 66 |
| 118 | To Law Officers .. | " | 4. | Insurrection at Sfax. Liability of a foreign Government for losses incurred. Draft instruction to Mr. Reade for opinion .. | 66 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|------|
| 119 | Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. .. | " | Aug. 5, 1881 | Their property at Sfax. Hope Her Majesty's Government will assist them to rescue from danger .. | 66 |
| 120 | Mr. Reade .. | 86 | 1. | Reports arrival of a division of French Mediterranean fleet at Tunis .. | 67 |
| 121 | Mr. Macdonell .. | 319 | 2. | Italian ecclesiastical appointments in Tunis and Algiers .. | 67 |
| 122 | To Mr. Adams .. | 768 | 2. | Transmits copies of Nos. 116 and 119. To suggest to French Government the appointment of a Commission to inquire into damage done at Sfax .. | 67 |
| 123 | To Mr. Langley .. | 90 Confidential | 10. | French designs on Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting .. | 68 |
| 124 | To Mr. Adams .. | 755a | 10. | Thanks of French Government for advice given by Her Majesty's Government to Porte with reference to Tripoli .. | 68 |
| 125 | To Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. .. | " | 10. | Her Majesty's Government are in communication with French Government respecting losses of British subjects at Sfax (see No. 119) .. | 69 |
| 126 | Mr. Adams .. | 755 | 10. | Appointment of M. Lequeux as French Consul at Tunis .. | 69 |
| 127 | Admiralty .. | " | 11. | Affairs in Tunis. Inclosing letter from Captain Tryon reporting his proceedings .. | 69 |
| 128 | Law Officers .. | " | 11. | Terms of draft instruction to Mr. Reade are right and proper (see No. 118) .. | 70 |
| 129 | Mr. Adams .. | 758 | 11. | Conversation with M. St. Hilaire respecting suggestion of a Commission to inquire into losses and destruction of property at Sfax. Note to French Government respecting (see No. 123) .. | 71 |
| 130 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 655 | 4. | Conversation respecting Tunis with French Chargé d'Affaires. Conciliatory language held to latter by Sultan .. | 72 |
| 131 | Mr. Adams .. | 760 | 12. | M. St. Hilaire agrees to Commission of Inquiry at Sfax .. | 72 |
| 132 | Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. .. | " | 12. | Protests against action of French Government with reference to their property at Sfax and Gabes .. | 73 |
| 133 | Mr. Adams .. | 66 Telegraphic | 13. | Substance of note from French Government agreeing to Commission of Inquiry at Sfax.. | 73 |
| 134 | Mr. Reade .. | 87 | 9. | Pillage and other effects of bombardment of Sfax. Further Report from Vice-Consul Galea .. | 73 |
| 135 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 674 | 2. | Has explained to the Porte the views of Her Majesty's Government regarding Tripoli as conveyed to him in No. 99 .. | 76 |
| 136 | Mr. Adams .. | 766 | 13. | Sfax Inquiry Commission. Note from French Government respecting. Asks that Captain Tryon may assist in inquiry .. | 76 |
| 137 | General Menabrea .. | Memo. | 12. | Tunisian subjects in Italian ports. Calls in question accuracy of M. St. Hilaire's language to Lord Lyons respecting .. | 77 |
| 138 | To Mr. Macdonell .. | 340a | 16. | Sfax Commission. General Menabrea informed of substance of French Communication respecting .. | 78 |
| 139 | To Mr. Reade .. | 51 | 16. | Claims of foreigners to compensation for losses consequent on insurrection at Sfax. Instructions respecting .. | 78 |
| 140 | To Admiralty .. | " | 16. | Claim of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. Sends copy of No. 132 for Captain Tryon to inquire into circumstances referred to .. | 78 |
| 141 | " .. | " | 17. | Sfax Commission. Transmits copy of No. 136 for observations as to Captain Tryon assisting at .. | 79 |
| 142 | Admiralty .. | " | 17. | State of affairs at Sfax and along Tunis coast. Copy of letter from Captain Tryon respecting Sfax Commission. Italian Government wish to know if Her Majesty's Government will accept invitation to be represented on .. | 80 |
| 143 | General Menabrea .. | Private | 17. | Sfax Commission. Asks that Captain Tryon may be authorized to assist .. | 80 |
| 144 | To M. Challemeil-Lacour .. | " | 18. | Maltese murdered at Suse on 14th instant. Rex promises exemplary justice .. | 80 |
| 145 | Mr. Reade .. | 85 Telegraphic | 18. | French Government have assented to Commission of Inquiry at Sfax. An English officer will be attached .. | 81 |
| 146 | To Mr. Reade .. | 43 Telegraphic | 18. | | |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---------------|---|------|
| 147 | To Mr. Reade .. | 82 | Aug. 18, 1881 | Extends above | 81 |
| 148 | Acting Consul Vadala .. | .. | July 28, | State of affairs at Benghazi. Christians not threatened. Recommends that Governor-General be made responsible for any disturbances .. | 81 |
| 149 | To M. Chaillemel-Lacour .. | .. | Aug. 19, | Sfax Commission. Her Majesty's Government accept proposal for .. | 82 |
| 150 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 19, | Sfax Commission. Copy of No. 144. Asks that Captain Tryon may be instructed accordingly .. | 82 |
| 151 | Messrs. Glynn and Son .. | .. | 19, | Services rendered by their vessel "Genova" in carrying despatches from Sfax to Suez .. | 83 |
| 152 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 680 | 12, | Hears that Porto mean to keep a garrison of from 15,000 to 16,000 men at Tripoli .. | 83 |
| 153 | Admiralty .. | .. | 20, | Sfax Commission. Approve of Captain Tryon serving on. Instructions sent accordingly .. | 83 |
| 154 | Mr. Adams .. | 779 | 21, | Number of French troops now employed in Africa. Despatch from Colonel Brackenbury relating to .. | 83 |
| 155 | " .. | 781 | 21, | Tunisian subjects in France placed under protection of French authorities. Circular from Minister of Interior to Prefects respecting .. | 84 |
| 156 | Mr. Reade .. | 86 | 21, | Murder of Maltese tried and executed (see No. 145) .. | 85 |
| 157 | Admiralty .. | .. | 22, | Arrival of "Monarch" at Tunis, and departure of "Iris" for Suez. Telegram from Captain Tryon .. | 85 |
| 158 | Mr. Reade .. | 87 | 22, | French Consular Resident charged with direction of all French Consular affairs. Circular from M. Roustan to foreign Representatives respecting .. | 85 |
| 159 | To Colonial Office .. | .. | 22, | Compensation to British subjects for losses at Sfax. Commission instituted to inquire into .. | 85 |
| 160 | Admiralty .. | .. | 22, | State of affairs on Tunisian coast. Letter from Captain Tryon respecting .. | 86 |
| 161 | To Mr. Reade .. | 44 | 23, | Sfax Commission. Captain Tryon will represent Her Majesty's Government on .. | 86 |
| 162 | To M. Chaillemel-Lacour .. | .. | 23, | Sfax Commission. Captain Tryon's setting on, approved by Admiralty. Orders sent .. | 87 |
| 163 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 71 | 15, | Invasion of Algerian territory by Arabs from Morocco. Sultan reported to have informed the French that they are free to pursue across frontier .. | 87 |
| 164 | To Colonial Office .. | .. | 24, | Tunisian Consul at Gibraltar. Has Mr. Levy ever been formally recognized as? .. | 87 |
| 165 | Mr. Reade .. | 83 | 18, | Extends No. 145 .. | 88 |
| 166 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 352 | 25, | Three battalions embarked for Tripoli from Salomon .. | 88 |
| 167 | To Earl of Dufferin .. | 602 | 25, | Responsibility of Porto with reference to Tripoli. Approves manner in which he executed instructions in No. 99 .. | 88 |
| 168 | To Messrs. Glynn and Son .. | .. | 25, | Their claim against French Government (see No. 151). Matter is not one in which Her Majesty's Government can interfere .. | 88 |
| 169 | Mr. Reade .. | 84 | July 18, | Reports further respecting concession granted to M. Dousnos by Bey's Government .. | 89 |
| 170 | Admiralty .. | .. | Aug. 25, | Murder of Maltese at Suez. Letter from Captain Tryon respecting .. | 89 |
| 171 | " .. | .. | 27, | Murder of Maltese near Suez. Telegram from Captain Tryon respecting .. | 90 |
| 172 | Mr. Reade .. | 88 | 27, | Murder of Maltese on the 23rd inst. Security of Christians of Suez compromised. Has brought matter to serious attention of the Bey .. | 90 |
| 173 | M. Chaillemel-Lacour .. | .. | 25, | Capture of Sfax. Gratitude of French Government to Captain Tryon for his care of French wounded .. | 91 |
| 174 | Mr. Reade .. | 89 | 29, | M. Roustan leaves Tunis for France to-morrow .. | 91 |
| 175 | " .. | 86 | 21, | Extends No. 156 .. | 91 |
| 176 | " .. | 87 | 22, | Extends No. 158 .. | 91 |
| 177 | " .. | 91 | 23, | Appointment of a French Consul to take charge independently of M. Roustan. Observations respecting .. | 92 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|---|-----|---------------|---|------|
| 178 | Admiralty .. | .. | Aug. 30, 1881 | Condition of matters generally in Tunis. Letter from Captain Tryon respecting .. | 93 |
| 179 | " .. | .. | 31, | Attack by Arabs on a French column. Insecurity of town on east coast. Telegram from Captain Tryon .. | 93 |
| 180 | Mr. Reade .. | 88 | 26, | Extends No. 172 .. | 94 |
| 181 | " .. | 92 | 26, | Murder of Maltese near Suez. Report from Vice-Consul Galea respecting .. | 94 |
| 182 | Admiralty .. | .. | Sept. 3, | Occupation of Hammammeth by French on the 21st August. Telegram from Commander of "Falcon" .. | 95 |
| 183 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 77 | Aug. 27, | Fears of Spanish Government respecting French designs on Morocco. Recommends friendly intimation at Paris of responsibility of French Government respecting .. | 95 |
| 184 | Admiralty .. | .. | Sept. 3, | Detention of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.'s property at Ghes and Sfax. Forwards Report by Captain Tryon as to .. | 97 |
| 185 | Mr. Reade .. | 89 | Aug. 29, | Extends No. 174 .. | 99 |
| 186 | To M. Chaillemel-Lacour .. | .. | Sept. 6, | Thanks of French Government to Captain Tryon. Admiralty requested to communicate .. | 99 |
| 187 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 6, | Thanks of French Government to be conveyed to Captain Tryon for his services to French wounded .. | 99 |
| 188 | General Menabrea .. | .. | 8, | Proposes an Anglo-Italian Supplementary Commission to inquire into losses at Sfax .. | 99 |
| 189 | Admiralty .. | .. | 8, | State of affairs at Hammammeth and Suez. Copies of despatches from Captain Tryon respecting .. | 100 |
| 190 | Colonial Office .. | .. | 8, | Number and nationality of Sfax refugees at Malta. Despatch from Governor respecting .. | 101 |
| 191 | Admiralty .. | .. | 10, | Movements of French ships and troops on coast of Tunis. Telegrams from Commander of "Falcon" respecting .. | 101 |
| 192 | To General Menabrea .. | .. | 10, | Sfax Commission. Her Majesty's Government think it advisable to await result of present inquiry before considering necessity for further proceedings (see No. 188) .. | 102 |
| 193 | Mr. Reade .. | 93 | 12, | Suez reported occupied by French forces on the 10th instant .. | 102 |
| 194 | " .. | 94 | 12, | Prime Minister superseded. Mohammed Khemmar appointed in his place .. | 102 |
| 195 | " .. | 95 | 5, | Military movements that have taken place during last fortnight. Account of .. | 102 |
| 196 | Admiralty .. | .. | 12, | Commander of "Bittern" reports occupation of Suez by French on the 10th instant .. | 103 |
| 197 | " .. | .. | 12, | Sir B. Seymour instructed to send another small vessel to Tunis to be under Captain Tryon's orders during Sfax inquiry .. | 104 |
| 198 | " .. | .. | 12, | Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" has relieved Her Majesty's ship "Iris" on coast of Tunis .. | 104 |
| 199 | To Mr. Adams (also to Mr. Macdonell) .. | 865 | 15, | Transmits copies of Nos. 168 and 192 .. | 104 |
| 200 | Admiralty .. | .. | 15, | Tunisian water supply cut off. Disembarkation of 3,000 more troops. Difficulties of French at Zagan. Telegram from Commander of "Falcon" respecting .. | 104 |
| 201 | " .. | .. | 15, | "Decoy" expected at Carthage on the 17th. Will proceed at once to Tunis (see No. 197) .. | 105 |
| 202 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 78 | 9, | Request of German Government to Sultan of Morocco for cession of a port. Further respecting .. | 105 |
| 203 | " .. | 79 | 9, | His advice to Sultan regarding conduct of his relations with French. Remarks of Sultan on Confidential Memorandum respecting transmitted to His Majesty .. | 106 |
| 204 | " .. | 80 | 9, | Visit of M. Carvajal, Spanish Deputy, to Tangier. Its objects .. | 107 |
| 205 | " .. | 15 | 9, | French activity at Mogador. Despatch from Consul Payton .. | 107 |
| 206 | Mr. Reade .. | 98 | 12, | Forwards protest of M. Mianud, British subject, against seizure of his farm by French troops .. | 108 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|---------------------|--------------|----------------|--|------|
| 207 | Admiralty .. | .. | Sept. 17, 1891 | Her Majesty's ship "Thunderer" will temporarily replace "Monarch" at Goletta | 109 |
| 208 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | 13, | Reports occupation of Soud by French on 10th instant | 110 |
| 209 | " " .. | 99 | 14, | State of affairs in Soud district. Forwards Report on, by Vice-Consul Gales | 110 |
| 210 | " " .. | 100 | 14, | Appointment of Sy Mohamed Kassar as Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs | 112 |
| 211 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 20, | Sfax Commission. Suggests confidential instructions to Captain Tryon for his guidance. | 113 |
| 212 | Admiralty .. | .. | 20, | State of affairs at Sfax. Transmits copy of letter from Captain Tryon | 114 |
| 213 | " " .. | .. | 20, | Sfax Commission. Transmits copies of proceedings at first four meetings of | 115 |
| 214 | " " .. | Confidential | 22, | Instructions sent to Captain Tryon accordingly (see No. 211) | 117 |
| 215 | Sir J. Drummond Hay | 81 | 15, | Conversation with Hadj Mohammed Bargash relative to Moroccan affairs | 117 |
| 216 | Mr. Reade .. | 55 | 24, | It is untrue that Hanafie Court has decided Enfila case against Levy | 118 |
| 217 | Sir J. Drummond Hay | 82 | 16, | Question of opening a port on south-west coast of Morocco. Letter from the Visir Mok-tar | 118 |
| 218 | Dr. Arpa .. | Telegraphic | 26, | Reports his departure from Naples for Tunis | 120 |
| 219 | To Mr. Reade .. | 58 | 26, | Claim of Mr. A. Missad. Approves action taken by him, as reported in No. 206 | 120 |
| 220 | Admiralty .. | .. | 26, | Stations of Her Majesty's ships on coast of Tunis | 120 |
| 221 | To Lord Lyons .. | 945 | 30, | Danger to British subjects in Tunis. Her Majesty's Government are prepared to send ships of war for their protection if news received by them is corroborated by French Government | 121 |
| 222 | Sir J. Drummond Hay | 85 | 21, | Reports departure of Hadj Abulham on an alleged mission from Sultan to Cid Solymou | 122 |
| 223 | " " .. | 86 | 22, | Sultan has discontinued his progress towards Morocco, and marched northwards with his army | 122 |
| 224 | Mr. Reade .. | 102 | 28, | Number of French troops arrived since 11th July. Disturbed condition of country. Maltese murdered | 123 |
| 225 | " " .. | 96 | Oct. 3, | Arrival of M. Roustan. Wadarga burnt by insurgents and ten Europeans murdered | 124 |
| 226 | Lord Lyons .. | 875 | 4, | M. St. Hilaire will send a written answer without delay (see No. 221) | 124 |
| 227 | Mr. Reade .. | 97 | 4, | Five or six Maltese murdered at Wadarga | 125 |
| 228 | Lord Lyons .. | 891 | 6, | Transmits copy of M. St. Hilaire's reply (see No. 221) | 125 |
| 229 | M. Roustan .. | Memo. | 6, | Murder of Italians and English in Tunis. As to steps to be taken | 126 |
| 230 | Sir A. Paget .. | 375 | 7, | Italian Ambassador instructed to speak about above | 126 |
| 231 | Mr. Reade .. | 98 | 10, | Occupation of city of Tunis by French | 126 |
| 232 | " " .. | .. | 1, | Extends No. 226 | 126 |
| 233 | " " .. | .. | 3, | Extends No. 227 | 127 |
| 234 | Admiralty .. | .. | 10, | Sfax Commission. Decision with regard to claims of which legal proofs have been destroyed | 127 |
| 235 | Mr. Reade .. | 99 | 11, | Protest of his Italian colleague against occupation of city of Tunis by French | 130 |
| 236 | Admiralty .. | .. | 12, | Occupation of Tunis by French reported by Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" | 130 |
| 237 | " " .. | Confidential | 14, | Transmits copy of letter from Captain Tryon with reference to instructions sent him for his guidance as member of Sfax Commission | 131 |
| 238 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | 10, | Extends No. 231 | 133 |
| 239 | " " .. | .. | 10, | Extends No. 235 | 133 |
| 240 | " " .. | 104 | 11, | Occupation of Tunis. Transmits copy of M. Roustan's Circular informing foreign Representatives | 133 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--|------|
| 241 | Sir A. Paget .. | 381 | Oct. 13, 1891 | Protest of Italian Representative against occupation of Tunis city. Conversation with M. Mancini | 134 |
| 242 | Mr. Reade .. | 100 | 17, | Denies statement in "Times," that all Consuls except Italian had recognised necessity of occupation of Tunis | 134 |
| 243 | Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha | Telegraphic | 17, | Anxiety of Paris caused by French occupation of city of Tunis | 135 |
| 244 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 428 | 19, | Substance of No. 229. Reply given to M. Roustan | 135 |
| 245 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | 17, | Extends No. 242 | 135 |
| 246 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 23, | Continued occupation of houses belonging to British subjects by French troops. Captain Tryon on | 136 |
| 247 | Mr. Reade .. | 101 | 24, | Sfax Commission dissolved by retirement of French member | 138 |
| 248 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 25, | Closing of Sfax Commission. Telegram from Captain Tryon | 138 |
| 249 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 928 | 20, | Despatch of Turkish troops to Tripoli | 139 |
| 250 | Admiralty .. | .. | 24, | State of affairs in Tunis. Letter from Captain Tryon | 139 |
| 251 | " " .. | .. | 25, | Case of M. Pictet Gili. Further correspondence respecting sent home by Captain Tryon | 140 |
| 252 | Mr. Reade .. | 103 | 25, | Arrival in Tunis of French members of Sfax Commission | 141 |
| 253 | " " .. | 104 | 28, | Kairwan occupied by French on 26th instant | 141 |
| 254 | " " .. | .. | 24, | Extends No. 247 | 141 |
| 255 | Mr. Morier .. | 205 | 28, | Interview with Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to question of Morocco | 142 |
| 256 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | Nov. 1, | Termination of Sfax Commission. Letters from Captain Tryon | 143 |
| 257 | General Menabrea .. | .. | 1, | Dissolution of Sfax Commission. Forwards Memorandum respecting | 152 |
| 258 | Mr. Reade .. | 105 | 4, | Petition to M. Roustan against withdrawal of French troops from Tunis being prepared | 153 |
| 259 | Lord Lyons .. | 983 | 3, | Charge of complicity with insurgents brought against Mr. Levy. Has mentioned to M. St. Hilaire | 153 |
| 260 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | Oct. 28, | Extends No. 252 | 153 |
| 261 | " " .. | .. | 28, | Extends No. 253 | 154 |
| 262 | " " .. | 108 | Nov. 1, | No change in attitude of insurgents effected by occupation of Kairwan | 154 |
| 263 | " " .. | 106 | 8, | Bey's Ministers likely to be replaced by French military officers | 155 |
| 264 | " " .. | 109 | 9, | Change in ceremonial observed at Bey's levees on occasion of Mussulman fete | 155 |
| 265 | " " .. | 110 | 4, | Memorial setting forth dangers of withdrawal of French garrison of Tunis instigated by M. Roustan | 156 |
| 266 | Lord Lyons .. | 1092 | 10, | Debate in French Chamber of Deputies on Tunisian interpolations | 156 |
| 267 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 10, | Movement of French troops at Tunis and Sfax. Letter from Captain Tryon | 157 |
| 268 | " " .. | .. | 11, | Sfax Commission papers and reports. Captain Tryon asks if he is to send them home at once | 157 |
| 269 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 457 | 11, | Abrupt termination of Sfax Commission. Conversation with Italian Ambassador | 157 |
| 270 | Consul Payton .. | 19 | Oct. 26, | Rumour that Port of Agadez is about to be opened to European commerce | 158 |
| 271 | Lord Lyons .. | 1097 | Nov. 11, | Debate in French Chamber on Tunisian expedition. Despatch from Colonel Brackenhury | 159 |
| 272 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 951 | 2, | Statistics of Tripoli province. Despatch from Major Swaine | 161 |
| 273 | Sir A. Paget .. | 404 | 6, | Language held to French Chargé d'Affaires respecting Tunis by M. Mancini | 167 |
| 274 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | 8, | Extends No. 263 | 168 |
| 275 | Sir J. Drummond Hay | 10 | 7, | Opening of port of Agadez. Engineers sent by Sultan to examine roads of Soud district | 168 |
| 276 | Admiralty .. | .. | 14, | Occupation of Kerouan by French. Letter from Captain Tryon | 169 |
| 277 | Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. .. | .. | 14, | Statement of their losses at Sfax. What can they do further to obtain satisfaction? | 169 |
| 278 | Admiralty .. | Confidential | 15, | Movements of French troops and ships at Tunis | 170 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|------------------------------|-------|---------------|---|------|
| 279 | To Mr. Reade .. | 47 | Nov. 16, 1881 | Has he received a letter from Mr. Smith claiming indemnity from French Government .. | 171 |
| 280 | To Lord Lyons .. | 1123 | 16, | Sfax Commission. Do French Government intend that meetings should be resumed? .. | 171 |
| 281 | Mr. Reade .. | 108 | 17, | Letter received from Mr. Smith, and claim transmitted to M. Roustan (see No. 279) .. | 171 |
| 282 | " " .. | 111 | Oct. 11, | Notice respecting Treaty of May 12 circulated in Tunis by order of M. Roustan .. | 171 |
| 283 | Lord Lyons .. | 1024 | Nov. 18, | Sfax Commission. Note addressed to French Government in sense of No. 280 .. | 172 |
| 284 | To Mr. Reade .. | 61 | 19, | Approves his attending Bey's levée as usual (see No. 264) .. | 172 |
| 285 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 19, | French Government first asked whether meetings are to be resumed (see No. 268) .. | 172 |
| 286 | Earl of Dufferin .. | 984 | 10, | Appointment of Achmet Hassan Pasha as Governor-General of Tripoli .. | 173 |
| 287 | Mr. Reade .. | 112 | 15, | Movements of French troops .. | 173 |
| 288 | War Office .. | .. | 19, | Including copy of Report on Tunis, by Sir William Gregory .. | 174 |
| 289 | To Messrs. Perry and Bury .. | .. | 23, | Their losses at Sfax and other places. No. 277 is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government .. | 177 |
| 290 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 462 n | 23, | Conversation with Italian Ambassador about Tunis .. | 177 |
| 291 | Lord Lyons .. | 1049 | 23, | French Government do not intend that Sfax Commission meetings should be resumed .. | 178 |
| 292 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 97 | 19, | Frontier between Algeria & Morocco. Conversation with French Chargé d'Affaires .. | 178 |
| 293 | To Lord Lyons .. | 1154 | 26, | Including copy of No. 277. Are French Government now prepared to deal with these and similar claims? .. | 179 |
| 294 | Mr. Reade .. | 113 | 23, | Latest proceedings of French Resident in Tunis. Calls attention to .. | 180 |
| 295 | " " .. | 110 | 28, | Rumours of recall of M. Roustan .. | 180 |
| 296 | Admiralty .. | .. | 26, | State of affairs at Sfax. Letter from Captain Tryon .. | 180 |
| 297 | Mr. Reade .. | 114 | 24, | Supply of stores to French troops. Notice circulated calling for tenders for .. | 181 |
| 298 | " " .. | 116 | 26, | Assistance rendered by French forces during a fire on premises of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. .. | 181 |
| 299 | Mr. Morier .. | 214 | 26, | Concentration of French troops in direction of Fighis. Feats entertained by Spanish Government on account of .. | 182 |
| 300 | To Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 26 | 30, | France and Morocco. Approves language held to French Chargé d'Affaires as reported in No. 292 .. | 184 |
| 301 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 30, | Sfax Commission. Suggests Captain Tryon being instructed to send home Reports and papers at once .. | 184 |
| 302 | To General Menabrea .. | .. | 30, | Including copy of No. 284 .. | 185 |
| 303 | To Chevalier Arbib .. | .. | 30, | Inquiries whether his claim was laid before Sfax Commission. If not, he should submit a statement of .. | 185 |
| 304 | Lord Lyons .. | 1080 | Dec. 2, | Declarations of French Government in Chamber of Deputies as to their intentions with respect to Tunis .. | 185 |
| 305 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | Nov. 28, | Extends No. 295 .. | 186 |
| 306 | Sir A. Paget .. | 481 | 30, | Termination of Sfax Commission. Indignation of M. Mancini at .. | 186 |
| 307 | Chevalier Arbib .. | .. | Dec. 2, | Forwards statement of claims of Messrs. Arbib (see No. 303) .. | 187 |
| 308 | Lord Lyons .. | 1088 | 5, | Transmits copy of note to French Government asking how they propose to deal with Sfax claims .. | 187 |
| 309 | Count Menabrea .. | .. | 5, | Action taken at Paris by Italian Government in consequence of termination of Sfax Commission .. | 188 |
| 310 | To Lord Lyons .. | 1193 | 5, | Including copy of No. 208. To thank French Government .. | 188 |
| 311 | Sir E. Malet .. | 367 | 5, | House tax in Egypt. Action of French Chargé d'Affaires regarding amendment of houses of Tunisians .. | 189 |
| 312 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | 3, | Departure of M. Roustan for France .. | 189 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | SUBJECT. | Page |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|---------------|---|------|
| 313 | Mr. Reade .. | 115 | Dec. 12, 1881 | Murder of Arab servant of British Consular Agent at Hammamet .. | 190 |
| 314 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 501 | 13, | Recognition of Barde Treaty by Her Majesty's Government. Inquiry of Italian Ambassador respecting .. | 190 |
| 315 | Consul-General Drummond Hay .. | 3 | 5, | Movements of French troops in neighbourhood of Tripoli frontier .. | 190 |
| 316 | Lord Lyons .. | 1115 | 13, | Proceedings in French Chambers regarding Tunis. Declarations of M. Gambetta .. | 190 |
| 317 | " " .. | 97 | 14, | French Government determined not to touch Morocco .. | 192 |
| 318 | Admiralty .. | .. | 15, | Sfax Commission. Forwards papers relating to .. | 192 |
| 319 | Lord Lyons .. | 98 | 15, | Corrects error in telegram of yesterday (see No. 317) .. | 208 |
| 320 | To Law Officers .. | .. | 15, | Including copy of No. 299. For opinion as to issuing a warning to French authorities or British subjects regarding criminal jurisdiction .. | 208 |
| 321 | Lord Lyons .. | 1120 | 14, | Extends No. 317 .. | 208 |
| 322 | To General Menabrea .. | .. | 16, | Acknowledges receipt of No. 309 .. | 209 |
| 323 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 98 | 9, | Refugees from Algiers and Tunis in Morocco. Apprehensions of French troops crossing frontier in pursuit .. | 209 |
| 324 | Consul-General Playfair .. | 14 | 10, | State of affairs in south of Oran .. | 210 |
| 325 | Lord Lyons .. | 1121 | 16, | Answer of French Government to inquiry as to manner in which they propose to deal with Sfax claims .. | 211 |
| 326 | " " .. | 1134 | 16, | Conversation with Italian Chargé d'Affaires with reference to above .. | 211 |
| 327 | To Messrs. Arbib .. | .. | 17, | Sfax claims. Her Majesty's Government are in communication with French Government as to manner in which they are to be dealt with .. | 212 |
| 328 | Mr. Reade .. | 118 | 18, | French telegrams announce M. Roustan's removal from his post .. | 212 |
| 329 | " " .. | 120 | 13, | Unfavourable impression produced in Tunis by absence of a British ship of war .. | 212 |
| 330 | To Sir A. Paget .. | 514 | 20, | Including copies of Nos. 325 and 326 .. | 213 |
| 331 | Lord Lyons .. | 1146 | 12, | Services rendered by French troops at sea on premises of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. Note from M. Gambetta acknowledging thanks of Her Majesty's Government .. | 213 |
| 332 | To Earl of Dufferin .. | 826 | 22, | Recognition of Barde Treaty by Her Majesty's Government. Conversation with Musurus Pasha .. | 213 |
| 333 | Mr. Reade .. | .. | 17, | Extends No. 328 .. | 214 |
| 334 | To Mr. Morier .. | 153 | 27, | Including copy of No. 321. To read it to Spanish Minister .. | 214 |
| 335 | Mr. Reade .. | 126 | 20, | War contribution levied on Sfax by Decree of the Bey .. | 214 |
| 336 | To Lord Lyons .. | 1253 | 28, | Tunisians and house tax in Egypt. Including copy of No. 311. To discuss question with M. Gambetta .. | 215 |
| 337 | Sir J. Drummond Hay .. | 107 | 23, | Advance of French troops towards Morocco. Possible consequences should they cross the frontier .. | 215 |
| 338 | Lord Lyons .. | 1178 | 30, | Return of M. Roustan to his post announced in newspapers .. | 216 |

CONFIDENTIAL

Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa.

PART II.

No. 1.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received July 1.)*

M. le Comte, 35, Queen's Gate, S.W., Londres, le 30 Juin, 1881.
JE viens d'être informé par le Ministère Royal des Affaires Étrangères que quelques erreurs se sont glissées dans les chiffres du télégramme du Chevalier Cairoli, en date du 7 Mai dernier, dont j'ai remis un extrait à votre Excellence, et qui a été publié à la page 7 du No. 6 de la Correspondance relative à Tunis (1881).

Quoique ses erreurs soient de peu d'importance, il est néanmoins opportun qu'elles soient corrigées; et, par conséquent, dans ce but, j'ai l'honneur d'indiquer à votre Excellence les rectifications suivantes:—

Au troisième alinéa il faut lire:

"Lord Granville désire maintenant connaître ce que nous pensons faire, ayant ce programme pour base, en vue des éventualités qui peuvent se produire en Tunisie, et dont la réalisation ne paraît pas si éloignée qu'on se l'imaginait jusqu'ici. Notre réponse est bien simple," &c.

Au sixième alinéa, commençant par les mots:—

"Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien développer ces considérations d'arbitrage," il faut supprimer les mots *d'arbitrage*, qui, comme il a été reconnu à Rome même, ont été introduits par inadvertance du Bureau d'Expédition. Ils devaient d'autant moins exister dans le télégramme que, dans la conversation que j'ai eue avec votre Excellence, au sujet des affaires de Tunis, il n'a nullement été question d'arbitrage, mais plutôt d'une action diplomatique qui aurait pu, tout au plus, se traduire par une proposition de médiation.

Agréer, &c.

(Signé) L. F. MENABREA.

No. 2.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 1, 5.28 P.M.)

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, July 1, 1881, 1.8 P.M.

AN insurrection of a formidable character has broken out in the southern provinces of the Regency and along a great part of the sea-coast, the Hamir, Nefet, Mithelit, Drid, and various other Arab tribes being banded together in the movement. The towns of Sfax and Gabes are occupied by the insurgents. The European population, panic-stricken, have taken refuge on vessels in the roadstead, the French ships of war "Alma" and "Chacal"

* To be laid in the next Tunis Blue Book.

having gone to Sfax, as well as two merchant-vessels conveying Tunisian troops. The insurgents determined to oppose disembarkation of latter, as also of any French troops who, it is reported, are to follow. Shots were fired by the others on a boat conveying French refugees, and the French Vice-Consul and two other Frenchmen are said to have been wounded. An application by the Maltese colony for a ship of war to proceed to Sfax is left in suspense, with the concurrence of Captain Tryon, until receipt of your Lordship's instructions, the more so as there does not appear to exist any animosity on the part of the insurgents against any other foreigners than French.

No. 3.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 637.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 1, 1881.

ALMOST the whole of the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies yesterday was occupied by an interpellation on recent events in the Province of Oran, which was brought forward by the three Deputies for Algeria: M. Jacques, M. Gastri, and M. Thomson.

M. Jacques, who spoke first, recited the Reports from the military authorities with regard to the insurrectionary movements in the south of Oran, and to the military operations undertaken against them, which have been published in the "Journal Officiel."

These Reports were transmitted by me to your Lordship day by day as they appeared, in connection with the similar Reports respecting the Tunisian expedition.

The insurrectionary movements in Oran assumed a very serious character. Settlements of Europeans, a great number of whom were Spanish subjects, were plundered and laid waste, murders took place, prisoners and booty were carried off; the military operations of the French were very unsuccessful; and Bou Amama, the Chief of the insurgents, succeeded in withdrawing to the south with his prisoners and booty, notwithstanding the endeavours of the French troops to intercept him. The province appears to be still in a disturbed and extremely unsatisfactory state.

The blame for all this was thrown by the authors of the interpellation on the civil Government and on the military authorities in Algeria in the first place, and, secondly, on the Government at Paris.

The Government at Paris and the subordinate authorities in Algeria were defended by General Farcy, the Minister of War, and M. Jules Ferry, the President of the Council of Ministers.

A Resolution to appoint a Committee of Inquiry, which was moved by M. Floquet, was rejected by 293 votes to 93; majority, 200.

An order of the day, moved by M. Jacques, but not accepted by the Government, was rejected by 236 votes to 220; majority for Government, 16.

Finally, an order of the day, moved by M. Méline, and agreed to by the Government, was carried by 249 votes to 171; majority for Government, 78.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 4.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 639. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 1, 1881.

THE French Government appears to be pursuing, not in all respects very discreetly, the establishment of its supremacy in Tunis.

A considerable number of French troops have been withdrawn from the Regency, some of whom have been brought back to France, and some sent to Algeria. Already, however, a call is heard for the prompt establishment of "permanent" garrisons in various points in execution of the Treaty.

These points having been chosen and occupied, the next step asserted to be necessary is to send French troops to the south of the Regency to overawe the tribes in that quarter. This would bring French troops into the neighbourhood of the Province of Tripoli; and already complaints are heard of the unwillingness or inability of the authorities of that province to restrain hostility to the French among the tribes.

Nor are causes of quarrel between France and the Porte with regard to Tripoli

difficult to find. The French press already comment with some ill-humour on an announcement said to have been made that a Turkish squadron is about to go to Tripoli.

It has not been avowed so far that the visit of Mustapha Pasha to Paris has had any more definite object than that attributed to it by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, a desire on Mustapha's part to put his relations with the French Government on a suitable footing, or, in other words, to make his peace with this Government. The French authorities appear to have avoided giving opportunities for his having even any social intercourse with the Representatives of foreign Powers here.

The papers announce that the Pope has appointed Mgr. Lavigerie, Archbishop of Algiers, to be Apostolical Administrator of Tunis in the room of an Italian Prelate, Mgr. Sutter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 5.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 2.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 2, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of two telegrams dated the 1st instant, from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Goletta, respecting the disturbances at Sfax, and the dispatch of a second French iron-clad from Tunis to Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Monarch," Goletta, July 1, 1881.

AN English schooner sent from Sfax to Suza reports that French Vice-Consul and two others had been wounded. A French boat was fired upon; no lives lost. Inhabitants have taken refuge in boats and vessels in bay, consequently they must suffer distress; but hostilities are directed against French and Bey. Insurgents opposing the landing of troops.

[French] iron-clad "Alma" and a gun-boat are there. 1,000 troops would have arrived by steamer yesterday.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Monarch," Goletta, July 1, 1881.

FRENCH iron-clad "Reino Blanche" has sailed for Sfax with 800 Tunisian troops.

No. 6.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 2, 1881.

IN reply to your letter of the 1st instant, forwarding a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tunis respecting the disturbances at Sfax, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Earl Granville that, in compliance with his request that a British vessel might be dispatched to the port named, instructions were given yesterday evening by telegraph to Captain Tryon, com-

[1268]

manding Her Majesty's iron-clad "Monarch," to proceed with that ship to Sfax, to protect British and other European residents.

2. My Lords desire me to add that the "Condor" gun-vessel is, or will very shortly be, at Goletta, in case Earl Granville should consider it desirable that a second British ship of war should be dispatched to Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 7.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 2, 1881, 5.45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 69, July 1.
Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" ordered to Sfax to protect British and other European residents.

No. 8.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2, 9.15 P.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, July 2, 1881, 2.50 P.M.

FRENCH merchant-steamers arrived yesterday, bringing refugees from Sfax. Insurgents have persistently opposed all attempts on the part of the Tunisian troops to land. The whole of the European and Hebrew communities had embarked, and were out of danger.

Some Maltese attempted to return for the purpose of buying provisions, but were attacked and fired upon by the natives at the moment of disembarkation, one of them being killed and another seriously wounded.

French men-of-war were preparing for offensive operations; but I am informed by M. Roustan that further endeavours will be made to treat with the insurgents by friendly means.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 631.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 2, 1881.

I TRANSMIT herewith to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Admiralty stating that, in consequence of the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government of disturbances now taking place near Sfax, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" has been ordered to proceed to that port, and that the "Condor" gun-vessel will very shortly be at Goletta, in case it should be considered desirable to dispatch a second British ship of war to join the "Monarch."

Your Excellency will inform the French Government of these arrangements, explaining that they have been made with a view of protecting British subjects if necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 43. Extender.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 2, 1881.

IN consequence of the information contained in your telegram No. 69 of yesterday of the outbreak of a serious insurrection in the southern provinces of Tunis, the occupation of the towns of Gabes and Sfax by the insurgents, and the panic amongst the European population at the latter town, Her Majesty's Government have sent orders to the Captain

* No. 6.

of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" to proceed to Sfax, in order to protect the British and other European residents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 11.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 2, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Captain Tryon:—

Goletta, July 2, 1881.

"Refugees from Sfax have arrived. Report all Jews and Europeans are afloat. Loyalty of Tunis troops doubtful."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 12.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 65.)

My Lord,

Tunis, June 24, 1881.

BY the concession which has been granted to M. Daninos, that gentleman is guaranteed against all competition in his banking or pawnbroking business. The privileges he will derive from the concession are therefore of an exclusive character. Were the business open to all the world, there would be no necessity whatever for a formal concession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 13.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 66.)

My Lord,

Tunis, June 24, 1881.

REPLYING to your Lordship's query respecting the General referred to in my telegram No. 64, I have to state that, although in possession of documents whereby he is acquitted of all further responsibility with regard to his late connection with the Heir Apparent, questions have been raised with regard to his past stewardship which he believes would have involved him in consequences of a disastrous nature. In the natural order of things, he would have succeeded to the office of Prime Minister, and the desire to get rid of his claim to that office led him to apprehend that his life was in danger. How far he may have been justified in this apprehension, it is impossible to say. When I undertook to intercede for him, I did so in my private capacity, and as a personal friend of the Heir Apparent. I am happy to add that the differences which existed between the two have been satisfactorily arranged, and that permission has been obtained for the General to leave the country, if he so desire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 14.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, July 4.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 2 Juillet, 1881.

Un télégramme de l'Agence Havas annonce qu'à l'occasion des troubles de Sfax plusieurs journaux Français cherchent à en faire remonter la responsabilité jusqu'à la Sublime Porte.

Une telle accusation n'est rien moins qu'absurde. L'action du Gouvernement Impérial à Tripoli ne comporte guère l'intérêt et qu'on se hâte vouloir réparer sans le public Européen. Les mesures que les autorités ont cru devoir prendre dans ce voyage sont des mesures purement administratives et locales et ne tendent qu'à la sauvegarde de l'ordre intérieur.

Votre Excellence voudra bien opposer un démenti formel et catégorique aux insinuations malveillantes des journaux dont il s'agit.

No. 15.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 643.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 4, 1881.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, to be borne in mind as occasion may require, copy of a letter from the War Office calling attention to the great importance of maintaining the free export of cattle and corn from Tunis to Malta.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 16.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 643.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 4, 1881.

THIS afternoon, in execution of the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch No. 631 of the day before yesterday, I informed M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that, in consequence of the information which had reached Her Majesty's Government respecting the disturbances at Sfax, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" had been ordered to proceed to that port, and I added that Her Majesty's gun-vessel the "Condor" would very shortly be at Goletta in case it should be considered advisable to send a second British ship of war to join the "Monarch." Moreover, I explained to his Excellency that these arrangements had been made with a view to protecting British subjects if necessary.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire answered that recent occurrences at Sfax had certainly made it natural that Her Majesty's Government should think it necessary to take steps for the protection of their countrymen there. There was however, his Excellency went on to say, every reason to expect that order would speedily be completely restored in that neighbourhood. The outbreak of fanaticism which had taken place there seemed to be chiefly due to the Governor of the place, and it had not spread further; 2,000 Tunisian troops had been dispatched to Sfax, and about 600 French troops would also be sent. There were besides several French ships of war in the neighbouring waters. There had, in fact, his Excellency observed in conclusion, been collected forces amply sufficient to deal with the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

* War Office, June 29, 1881.

No. 17.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 644.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 4, 1881.

THIS afternoon, in speaking of the troubles at Sfax, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire observed to me that matters might become very serious if outbursts of fanaticism should be provoked among the Arabs in Tripoli and should spread to the tribes in Tunis.

The Porte had sent some troops to Tripoli, and it appeared to have assembled a naval and military force in Crete with a view to dispatching it to the same place. There were also various indications that the Turks, with or without the sanction of the Porte, were striving to stir up Mussulman feeling in Tripoli, and even in the Regency of Tunis.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire added that he had thought it necessary to address to the Porte a serious warning on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 18.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 645.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 4, 1881.

I SPOKE to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon, in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 618 of the 30th ultimo, respecting the inconvenience of the arrangement by which M. Roustan, who has been made the intermediary between the Government of Tunis and the foreign Representatives there, is the same as with whom, as French Consul-General, the ordinary Consular business of Great Britain and other Powers, including the exercise of Consular jurisdiction, will have to be conducted.

I adverted to what I had said to his Excellency on this subject by your Lordship's order on the 23rd of last month. I observed that the notice which he had caused to be published in the newspapers confirmed the interpretation given by your Lordship in Parliament as to the extent to which the privileges of foreign Representatives in Tunis were affected by M. Roustan's appointment, and by the new order of things in the Regency. I added, however, that your Lordship had remarked that the notice did not meet the point of inconvenience which might be created by the union of the Consular office with the other functions assigned to M. Roustan.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he had not failed to note what I had said to him before on the subject; and that he was considering the means of establishing a satisfactory organization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 19.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 646.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 4, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 561 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I had this afternoon some further conversation with M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire respecting the visit to Paris of Mustapha Pasha, the Tunisian Prime Minister.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that it had been arranged that Mustapha Pasha was not to come here on a mission of any kind, but simply on a visit. The character of a simple visitor had been maintained by the Pasha throughout. He had given assurances on the part of the Bey, and on his own part, of the most friendly feelings towards France, and of the firmest determination to observe implicitly the Treaty of the 12th May; but he had not made any attempt to obtain a modification of the Treaty.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire proceeded to authorize me to inform your Lordship that no negotiation whatever had taken place with Mustapha Pasha and that no modification whatever of the Treaty, or of the state of things established by it, had been made.

He said that Mustapha Pasha would stay to dine with the President of the Republic.

[265]

in company with a large party of French Generals on the 13th instant, and to be present on the following day at the great military review which would be held on that day on the occasion of the national fetes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 20.

Mr. Herbert to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 5.)

Sir,
I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Granville, copy of a telegram from the Governor of Malta, reporting arrival of British subjects, refugees from Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 20.

The Governor of Malta to the Earl of Kimberley.

(Telegraphic.)

ONE hundred and thirty-five passengers, of whom 120 British subjects, arrived last night from Sfax, to save their lives from Arabs; one Maltese massacred. More have left in another vessel.

No. 21.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 5, 2 A.M.)

(No. 71)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, July 4, 1881, 1.25 P.M.

Her Majesty's ships "Monarch" and "Condor" left for Sfax on Saturday evening, and the Italian iron-clad "Mar a Pia" 650 French troops and a battery of mountain guns were embarked this morning in a transport of the same nation, which proceeded immediately afterwards to Sfax. Numerous protests on behalf of British subjects are being served by this Consulate-General on the Tunisian Government, holding the latter responsible for losses upon insurrection at Sfax. Fears are entertained for the security of Europeans at Sfax and Raz, towns on the coast. From private sources I learn that disturbances have actually broken out at Gerba, and that several European residents of that island have been assaulted by the insurgents and wounded.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 44.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 5, 1881.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 77 of the 24th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a note from M. Roustan, in which he asks you to enforce the payment by certain British subjects of sums due from them to the Municipality of Tunis, and inquiring how you are to comply with such communications under the instructions given to you in my telegram of the 1st June.

In reply, I have to state to you that you acted rightly in complying with M. Roustan's request, and calling on the defaulting British subjects to pay their contributions. Her Majesty's Government have accepted the position of M. Roustan as intermediary between the Bey of Tunis and the foreign Agents, you should communicate with him on all matters, whether relating to the foreign or political affairs, or to the other business of the Tunisian Government, taking care in all such communications, that you are dealing with M. Roustan as the Tunisian intermediary, and not in his Consular capacity.

If any occasion should arise in which the Treaty rights of British subjects in relation to French interests are, in your opinion, affected, you should avoid entering into a

discussion with M. Roustan, but should report the circumstances to Her Majesty's Government, who will determine how to deal with the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

Foreign Office, July 5, 1881.

My Ambassador,

IN the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 26th ultimo, you advert to the alterations which recent events in Tunis have introduced into the constitution of the Franco-Tunisian Commission, and your Excellency requests to be informed, with a view to a more complete understanding between this country and Italy in regard to the Commission, what is the course of proceeding which Her Majesty's Government propose to follow in this subject.

I have the honour to state to your Excellency, in reply, that this matter has already engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and that in a communication which has lately been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Turin,* they have expressed the opinion that an opportunity should be afforded to the members of the Franco-Tunisian Commission, as established by the Bey's Decree of the 6th July, 1869.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, July 5, 1881.

Sir,

EARL GRANVILLE considers that under present circumstances it is advisable that one of Her Majesty's ships should be stationed at the Golette and his Lordship therefore directs me to request that you will so inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and that you will move their Lordships to give orders that one of the two British vessels now cruising in Tunisian waters should return to the anchorage off the city of Tunis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 25.

Mr. Herbert to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 6.)

My Lord,

Downing Street, July 6, 1881.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Granville, copy of a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar, inclosing letters received from the Consuls for Tunis and France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Lord Napier of Magdala to the Earl of Kimberley.

My Lord,

Gibraltar, June 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters which I have received from Mr. Levy, late Consul for Tunis, and the French

* See Part I, No. 273.

Consul in this city, notifying the transfer of the direction of the Tunisian Consulate to the latter officer, in pursuance of instructions from their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) **NAPIER OF MAGDALA,**
General and Governor.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

The Consul for Tunis, Gibraltar, to Lord Napier of Magdala.

My Lord, *Gibraltar, June 14, 1881.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that by a despatch which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Highness the Bey of Tunis, dated the 26th Journee Ettani (24th May, 1881), his Lordship informs me that in conformity with the Treaty entered into between His Highness the Bey of Tunis and the French Government, dated the 12th May, 1881, I am to hand over the Tunisian Consulate I hold in this city to the French Consul here which I have done in compliance with the said instructions, and communicate to your Excellency for all necessary purposes, requesting your Excellency to inform Her Majesty's Government thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) **ABM. E. LEVY**

Inclosure 3 in No. 25

The French Consul, Gibraltar, to Lord Napier of Magdala.

My Lord, *Gibraltar, June 15, 1881.*
I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that in consequence of the Treaty concluded between France and Tunis, and in pursuance of instructions received from both Governments, Mr. Abraham Levy, hitherto Consul for Tunis in Gibraltar, has handed over to me the direction of his service.

Hoping Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to consider from this date the French Consulate in this garrison as entrusted with all questions concerning the subjects and interests of His Highness the Bey of Tunis, I have, &c.

(Signed) **H. MIMANT.**

No. 26.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Herbert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 6, 1881.*
THE Secretary of State for War has called Earl Granville's attention to the fact that Malta is largely dependent on Tunis for its supplies of cattle and corn. As it is very important that no restrictions should be placed on the export of these supplies from Tunisian ports, I am directed by his Lordship to request that you will move the Earl of Kimberley to cause instructions to be sent to the Governor of Malta to report any evidence of the imposition of such restrictions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **TENTERDEN.**

No. 27

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 7.)

(Confidential)
My Lord, *Admiralty, July 7, 1881.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram dated the 5th July, from Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Sfax, respecting

the state of affairs at that port. It will be seen that this telegram is anterior to that from Commander Egerton communicated to you to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **E. N. SWAINSON.**

Inclosure in No. 27

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sfax, July 6, 1881.
(Telegraphic.)
ARRIVED at Sfax on Sunday, 3rd. Found all foreigners safe; about 700 remain afloat. Some are very poor, others have property are unwilling to lose sight of it. All necessities are relieved with water and provisions.
State of affairs is grave; hostility towards Tunisian and French is great; [feeling] towards us friendly.

"Condor" remains at Sfax for telegrams, and to watch events there. French have orders from France to take active measures, but have decided to wait for French troops, 500 have just arrived. If telegraph is interrupted, "Condor" proceeds Malta. If attack is deferred, it is because force is not sufficient.

[This telegram was probably written on the 5th July, by Captain Tryon, at Sfax.]

No. 28

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 7.)

(Confidential)
My Lord, *Admiralty, July 7, 1881.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram dated Sfax, from Commander Egerton, of Her Majesty's "Condor," reporting that Sfax was being bombarded by French gun-boats on the 4th instant.

It is understood that Sfax, or Soussa, is the nearest telegraph station to Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **E. N. SWAINSON.**

Inclosure in No. 28.

Commander Egerton to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
AFTERNOON, 5th, when leaving Sfax, two French gun-boats commenced bombardment of town. Mole battery was returning fire.

No. 29.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 7.)

(Confidential)
My Lord, *Admiralty, July 7, 1881.*
I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 5th instant requesting that a ship may be stationed at G. Litta.
2. My Lords desire me to request that you will state to Earl Granville that the following steps have been taken to insure the presence of a ship of war there.
As the "Monarch" and "Condor" had both left for Sfax, in compliance with previous orders, on the 4th instant a telegram was sent to Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," to send back the "Condor" to G. Litta, as soon as she could be spared, and on the evening of the 5th instant a further telegram was sent, asking when the "Condor" could return. There is no direct telegraphic communication with Sfax and it is therefore uncertain when they will reach Captain Tryon, as they were addressed to care of Her

• Altered by desire of the Admiralty.

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Majesty's Consulate, Tunis. It will be seen, however, from my letter of to-day, that there is telegraphic communication with Sfax between Tunis and Sfax, and that the "Condor" is there waiting for telegrams. The following written orders have this day been dispatched to Captain Tryon.—

"Her Majesty's ship 'Iris' has been ordered to Goletta to follow your orders. The 'Monarch,' 'Iris,' and 'Condor' will be for the present retained on the Tunisian coast, for the protection of British interests, under your directions. One ship should remain at Goletta.

"In the execution of this service, my Lords rely on your discretion and good judgment to act as the occasion may require.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

No. 30.

Mr Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 7)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 7, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the copy of a telegram dated the 6th July, from Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure in No. 30

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Monarch," at Sfax, July 6, 1881.

TWO French gun-boats fired about fifty shot and shell at town batteries in the afternoon of 5th, to-day? [sic] To-morrow, at dawn, the two iron-clads move in and attack commences.

[N.B.—It is to be observed that this message is telegraphed from Malta to-day; but there is nothing to show how it was sent to Malta.]

No. 31

The Rev. E. Frankel to Sir C. Dilke.—(Received July 8.)

Sir,

58, Richmond Road, Barnsbury, July 6, 1881.

AS the English Chaplain in Tunis, I beg to lay before you the facts connected with the appropriation of Church land by M. Roustan, alluded to in your reply to the Earl of Beective. I also inclose a small plan of the ground for your guidance.

About four years ago the Bey gave to the English Protestant community a freehold for church and garden. More than six months elapsed between the building of the church and the issuing of the title-deeds. When the document was brought to the Consulate by one of the Bey's officers he pointed out the fact to Sir R. Wood that, according to the deed, we had 6 metres by 18 beyond the garden wall. We had at once a ditch dug and stakes put up, to mark the limits of the Church property.

Early in 1880 Mr. Reade asked for an additional piece of ground adjoining the extra-mural 6 metres frontage, to make it a square of 18 by 20 metres, equal to 360 square metres, large enough to build a parsonage on.

Si Arbi Zaruk (the President of the Municipality) ordered Mr. Reade to take possession of it at once, which he did by having it fenced in and levelled for a tennis court. About twelve months ago a Tunisian Jew bought the adjoining land, through Arbi Zaruk, with the full understanding that the fish-market wall (see plan) was the boundary-line of the Church property.

On Monday last I received a letter from Mr. Shepherd, Acting Chaplain, in which he informs me that M. Roustan had given to M. Elias Shemmama, a French protégé, the

360 square metres, including the 6 by 18 metres legally secured by a title-deed signed by the Bey himself. Mr. Reade asked M. Roustan to wait till my return to Tunis. He replied that he would wait a fortnight, but not beyond, as M. Shemmama would like to build at once.

Comment is needless. The above facts show pretty clearly what we may expect from the Dictatorship of M. Roustan. He rules supreme, and none but his own partisans will hereafter have any chance in the Regency of Tunis. I hear that he has already given away a large property of the Bey at Hammam-el-Nif to two of his friends, and now he has taken a piece of English property to reward M. Shemmama for his loyalty to French interests.

I can only add that I shall be at your service if you should require any further explanation.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FRANKEL.

Inclosure in No. 31.



No. 32.

Mr Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 9)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 8, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Earl Granville, with reference to my letter of yesterday's date respecting the steps which have been taken to insure the presence of a ship of war at Goletta, that a telegram dated the 7th instant, 9 P.M., has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, reporting that Her Majesty's dispatch-vessel "Iris," will leave Trieste for Malta and Tunis to-day (on Saturday the 9th instant).

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 9.)

(Confidential)
My Lord,

Admiralty, July 9, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decripter of a telegram dated Sousse (in Tunis), 8th July, from Commander Egerton, of Her Majesty's ship "Condor."

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON

Inclosure in No. 33.

Commander Egerton to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Condor," at Sousse, July 8, 1881

EVENING, 6th, from the "Monarch"—

"French squadron bombarded to-day; firing slowly. Do not think place much affected in reference to defences against landing. 130 shots fired by iron-clads, 120 by gun-boat. No casualties afloat. Firing returned ineffectual."

No. 34.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 9, 4.30 A.M.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, July 8, 1881, 4.38 P.M.

THE bombardment of Sfax commenced at 5 P.M. on Tuesday, 5th July, and lasted three hours. On the following morning firing was heard from that quarter at Mehdia. Town batteries returned the fire. No further news.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 291.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, July 9, 1881.

THE Italian Ambassador informed me, at an interview which I had with his Excellency on the 2nd instant, that his Government had instructed their Consul at Tunis to concert with Mr. Reade with a view to the efficient protection of the subjects of the two countries on the southern coast of Tunis during the present disturbed state of affairs. I informed General Menabrea that Her Majesty's Government had, with this object, sent a ship to Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 334.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 6, 1881.

THE Austrian Government avoid the expression of any opinion whatever on the protest of the Porte with reference to the late French proceedings at Tunis, considering no Imperial interests to be involved in the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

At Sfax.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July

(Extender of Telegram No. 70.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 2, 1881.

A FRENCH merchant-steamship, conveying refugees from Sfax, arrived at the Goletta yesterday. All attempts on the part of the Tunisian troops to land at Sfax had been successfully opposed by the insurgents. All the Europeans and Jews of that place had embarked, and were out of danger. Some M. F. had embarked for the purpose of buying provisions and water, but they were fired upon by the insurgents, and one of them was killed and another badly wounded. The French ships of war on that station were being prepared for offensive operations, but I am sorry to say that hostilities will not be resorted to by them (the French) until after the failure of some further attempt that is to be made to come to friendly terms with the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 38.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 71.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 4, 1881.

HER Majesty's ships "Monarch" and "Condor" departed for Sfax on the 2nd instant, and the Italian iron-clad "Africa" yesterday. A French force of 150 men, accompanied by a battery of mountain artillery, and a few transports, are on their way to Sfax, and I am told they will be proceeded to Sfax. Numerous deaths and wounds of British subjects are being reported by the Consul-General at Tunis. I am, however, holding the latter responsible for losses consequent on the insurrection at Sfax.

Fears are entertained for the security of Europeans at Sousse and other towns on the coast.

I learn from private sources that some disturbance has actually taken place at Gerba, in which, it is alleged, European subjects have been assaulted, and some of them wounded, by the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 39.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord,

Tunis, July 6, 1881.

REGARDING the insurrection at Sfax, I have little information of importance to communicate to your Lordship further than what is contained in my telegrams Nos. 70 and 71 of the 2nd and 4th instant. I beg, however, to transmit the accompanying copy of a detailed Report by Mr. William Galea, the British Vice-Consul at Sousse, of all the principal occurrences in connection with the insurrection as they were related by him, on each successive day between the 24th and 30th instant.

Mr. Galea is the representative in this country of the English firm Perry, Bury, and Co., and had proceeded to Sfax to take measures for the security of the extensive commercial establishment of that firm in that town.

Mr. Leonardi, the Acting British Consular Agent at Sfax, has also not failed to keep me informed upon the insurrectionary movement; but, as his Reports to me are in Italian, and they only confirm the more graphic and diffuse statement of Mr. Galea, I have selected the latter as more convenient for transmission to your Lordship's Office.

Mention being made of Mr. Leonardi, I must beg, in justice to that gentleman, to bring his name to the special notice of Her Majesty's Government. His conduct, under the most trying circumstances, appears to have been very praiseworthy. I am assured on all hands that his energetic behaviour, and determination not to leave Sfax until every other European had embarked, greatly facilitated the escape of the refugees.

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ALL WITH UT PERMISSION OF THE
C. B. L. R. L. LONDON

It will be my duty to submit later to your Lordship whether the Consular Agency at Sfax should not be raised to a Vice-Consulate, and occupy a position of equality with the corresponding office at Sousse, where the Consular duties are certainly less onerous and not more important. In that case, I would recommend Mr. Leonardi as the candidate best fitted for the appointment.

Owing to the interruption of telegraphic communication south of Sousse, the latest news that has reached Tunis from Sfax is dated the 2nd instant. On that day the insurgents were as determined as ever to resist by force of arms all attempts to land either Tunisian or French troops. Arabs, in large numbers, were flocking to the scene from all parts of the interior. Sy Ali Ben Hlifa, the Chief in command of all the revolted tribes, had arrived; and the fortifications were being extended along the sea-shore on either side of the town, under the direction of Sy Mohamed Sherif, an artillery officer, who has for some years past acted as the Military Commandant of the place, bales of esparto grass (taken from the European stores) being utilized as a substitute for earthworks.

We are anxiously awaiting the result of the impending bombardment, as, unless the attack prove successful and necessary and complete, the insurgents take place, it is feared the movement will acquire more formidable proportions, and give rise to a further invasion of the country by French troops, and the ultimate conquest and annexation of the country. Occasion having occurred for the transmission through this Consulate-General of a considerable number of protests against the Bey's Government for losses and damages sustained by British subjects at Sfax, I have felt it my duty to address the Bey a letter of protest in general terms, on behalf of such of Her Majesty's subjects as have been persecuted by the French Government, and to hereto annex a copy of that letter.

A Maltese wounded at the same time as the one who, as stated in my telegram No. 70, was killed, is reported to have since died.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Vice-Consul Gules to Mr. Reade.

Sir,

Sfax, June 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, all that has occurred here in connection with the insurrection of the natives, as noted by me each day.

June 24.—The Sengnak (company of cavalry) that was sent from Tunis to the Mehedena tribe has returned, stating that, as soon as they got to the territory of the tribe, they were met by 400 armed men demanding the meaning of their mission. The Chief of the Sengnak replied that he had been sent by the Bey in a friendly way to see how matters went with the tribe, and he had then to immediately return. The Arabs, with their usual hospitality, told him that his troops might pass the night with the Arabs, but that he must start back the next day, because the Arabs were determined not to recognize the orders that he had. After supper, the Sengnak set off on their return to Sfax, fearing that the Arabs would kill their horses. The Hlifa (Lieutenant-Governor) of the tribe had no power to collect taxes, and was being harassed by the tribe. Two Sengnak were sent to collect taxes, but they were killed. The Hlifa of the tribe of the Beni Hlifa tribe, who is a French subject, is now in Sfax, and is being harassed by the tribe.

A special Sengnak was dispatched to Bin Maktuf, who is regarded as a Headman of the Emtent, but he and his relatives escaped to the Hamema Mountains.

A proposed meeting of several of the bands of Agureb Arabs fell through on account of a difference of opinion among them.

June 25.—This day the Caïd Hama Gelluli called a meeting of the townspeople, and told them to be prepared to defend the town and European suburb from any invasion of Arabs. This was quite apart from the French, who were not to be admitted to have anything to do with the matter. If they refused, he was ready to bring 200 Tunisian soldiers to defend the town and suburb. They, however, verbally agreed to look after the defence of the town and suburb as long as the French kept away. This result tranquilized the European colony. I guarantee the accuracy of my report, because I had it from the Caïd the same evening.

Guards have been increased in number both inside and outside of the town and suburb night and day.

The Caïd seemed to me to be of the opinion that the Caïd Ah-ben-Hlifa was against the Government, but I believe the contrary to be the case, and that he is doing his best to appease the much-exasperated Arabs.

June 26.—I hear that the Caïd Sy Haffi, in the territory of the Zlass Uled Sindeser, had put in arrest a Sheikh who was using revolutionary language. The relatives of the Sheikh rose and fought with the French. In the struggle two men were killed and several wounded; the Sheikh was forcibly liberated, and fled with the insurgents.

The tribe Ziedun of the Zlass were desirous of marching from the side of Gabes on the Algerian tribe of the Irude, so as to have a plundering expedition and bring away camels and sheep, but one of his tribe dissuaded them from this, and got them to remain tranquil. He rather suggested that they should reserve their strength for a march to Kerwan, when the time for that should come.

The Neffet, it is to-day reported, have come to Tiriaga, between the Zlass and the Emtent, and not far from Sfax.

A letter from Gabes to me, dated the 24th instant, states that the Arabs of Gran took from our yard the only remaining donkey, and several camels of our guards.

A Sengnak came to Gabes to punish those who broke down the telegraph-line. When on their mission, about 2 miles from Gabes, the villagers of Shuqennat gave them a good beating, and these same villagers had to do with the breaking of the telegraph. The employés of the telegraph at Gabes have orders to abandon their posts and come to Sfax.

Earthquakes continued at Gabes till the 25th, but both Arabs and villagers continued to go on in a revolutionary manner. Nearly all the Europeans had left Gabes. The French Consular Agent and our Agent remain, but scarcely any other European stays on; even these will have soon to escape.

At Sfax apparent tranquillity prevails. Several Arab Beys arrived direct to the Caïd Hlifa, also one for Sfax which was sent by the Caïd. It states that the French troops are leaving Tunisian territory, and that the Kroujer will be sent to the Bey of Tunis to demand a reward for their services, and asks the Bey to pay them. The Bey orders are not allowed, he will be obliged to do so.

June 27.—The French Consular Agent arrived at Sfax. The Commander landed and paid a visit to the Caïd Gelluli.

Several Jews arrived from Gabes, reporting that, on Saturday last, a band of 1,000 horsemen (the figure is, no doubt, exaggerated) came and had a meeting with a Chief named Mady and the Bush Mafty. All agreed that they should fraternize together, and assist the movement of the French in their country.

The Bey of Sfax, who is now the Bey of the Beni Hlifa (General commanding Bey's irregular cavalry) is on his way from Tunis to Sfax on board a French frigate. He has the appointed Caïd of the Emtent, instead of Mohammed Gelluli, and comes to govern the town. It is reported that he has 1,000 Tunisian artillery and 200 soldiers are also coming. The French frigate, in order to form a proper garrison for the town and to order the taking of the town out of the hands of the townspeople. The few soldiers who are in the town and on the fortifications are almost every one of them men of the Beni Hlifa.

June 28.—The town of Sfax appeared perfectly tranquil. From 6 A.M. till 6 P.M. I was out walking, having as visitors two respectable Arabs, from whom I was trying to gather all the information I could get. They confirmed what I have already noted down, viz., that the Arabs are prepared to fight. On Saturday morning I paid a visit to Signor Vignale, the agent of the Commission, and he was very quiet. I came down to the yard where we work our esparto, and found that a servant came running from the town crying out in a great state of mind that the townspeople were in revolution. At the same time we saw hordes of men, nearly all armed with what arms they could muster, hurrying down to the seaward side of the town. There were townspeople, villagers, and also Arabs on horseback and on foot, all running as hard as they could. Others soon began to run back, as if to their homes, and the telegraph wire was cut near our yard. We had over 100 labourers in our yard, and I tried, but in vain, to persuade them to continue their work quietly. All rushed out, some to discover what was wrong, some to their families, and some to join the insurgents against the French, or whoever it might be. To increase the confusion, the women were on the roof-tops and walls of the Moorish town, trilling in their peculiar way, and encouraging the men in their revolt. We were in the process of taking delivery of the esparto from thirty or forty Hamema Arabs, having just bought it from them. Seeing the alarm, these Arabs rushed off like madmen to the Marra, leaving their esparto and going off to fight against the French for glory and Paradise. At this moment all the Consuls' flags were run up,

The conversation with me in the yard Messrs. Leadbetter, Alison, and F. Galt, all employed by the bank. We were confused as to what was best to be done, the morning, of the 15th, the day was out. We decided to try to get off in a boat, rather than take the risk of the Moors and Arabs. We delivered the key of the safe to our head Moorish guard Selini, recommending him, in case of any assault of the Arabs on the yard, to be very gentle with them, and to offer to distribute among them the money we had in the safe, and to make no opposition to their taking the eight or nine valuable horses of ours which were tied up idle in the yard. It was to yield up anything they might please, without making any opposition. It was better, I thought, to let them have their money rather than to irritate the Arabs in the slightest, it was not to be inclined to set fire to the yard, and so destroy about 2000 sheep. I thought I was choosing the lesser of two evils. We gave about 2000 rupees to the head policeman employed to watch in the esparto market, to pay the Arabs who had delivered grass, so that they might be contented and to prevent any cause of quarrel with us.

We started again, and this time the Arab, carrying with us the ledger, stock-book, two other books and a strong box. We went about a mile, partly by the mud left dry by the tide, but it was impossible to go beyond that. The Moors and Arabs shouted and came after us. Our men went behind us and tried to persuade the mob that we were English. This magical word was a pass for us till we were near the jetty, an Arab was then seen coming up on horseback, waving his unsheathed sword, and he was with difficulty persuaded to return on being assured that we were real English. At last we had the good luck to get on board a boat. When we were pushing through the mud, about 200 yards from the shore, my watch showed 1.10.10.10.10.10.

At that moment we saw the first small boat, a gun-boat "Chacal," that had reached the bank of seaweed that extended out from the jetty. I was backing out of it, having found too little water to pass it. It was full of people other than Moors were coming, putting their boats in the water, and were already afloat. As we set sail the "Chacal" sailed close to the shore, and following the channel of deepest water, and went on to the jetty. As one of the boats got rather near to the south-west end of the jetty, a boat on the jetty fired about ten shots at it. The bullet struck the water and did not hit. Seeing that they only irritated the people, the officers ordered the boats to "leave," when most of them were soon stowed on land.

We proceeded under a full British steamship, "Hercules," of Liverpool; Captain Sudebotham most kindly received us on board. A small boat from the "Chaco" then came alongside, asking regarding the safety of the people.

I decided to get the books of the firm *vide* by the French Vice-Consul. He had fled, getting a wound in his arm inflicted by the Moors, and succeeded in reaching the "Clarea." Captain Sidelotham kindly manned a boat with four sailors and a soldier, and sent me over with it to the "Clarea." I took a few books and a few of M. Maud's for our books in pencil, being unable to use a pen, while the time was so short. I used a sharp knife. We returned on board the "Clarea," and a vessel from the port of Agades came to the beach regarding such circumstances as had happened in this knowledge, which I had. About 2 P.M. a boat came with a number of fugitives, and the captain of the vessel received them on board. From these fugitives I learned that the French flag was flying over the Moors, who also killed a few of the Moors. The respect to Moors of the town, however, at the moment of the escape of the Europeans. They reported to us that M. Soud, the Swedish Vice-Consul, and a soldier had been wounded.

When on shore, I tried to get information regarding the cause of the revolution, but could not find out anything definite, only the coming of the French was shouted out as an alleged cause of panic.

On the arrival of the fugitives we learned that the townspeople and Arabs had taken to heart the coming of the Tunisian troops, and were displeased that the control of the town should thus be taken out of their hands. They considered those Tunisian troops as allied with the French. Therefore they intended to defend their town by themselves, and to fight to death against any of the newcomers. There was no more safety for the Europeans on shore. Influential Moors warned them to leave, and all the crowd was shouting out the war cry, "El Gebel fi sehilla!"

At 4 P.M. the Commander of the "Chacal" came on board the "Genoise," requesting the captain to proceed to Suva with despatches. The captain's reply was written out, and he got it signed by the French Commander in the following terms:—

"I have considered your request that I should proceed to Shan bearing your despatches, and I have come to the conclusion that it is a matter of expediency for me to do so once follow out your wishes.

"Meanwhile, as being only the captain of the steamer under my command, I feel bound to reserve for the owners of the steamer the right of making any claim they may deem proper on the French Government for remuneration."

By the "Genoese" I am forwarding two telegrams to be sent to you from Susa.

¹¹ *Sig.*, Tuesday, June 28, 1881.

• This morning's telegram, taken by Arabs, says that the British at Tamsui and Fort Belknap, and at various other points, have captured the form garrison, and that the Chinese have been killed. All Europeans escaped aboard vessels, no fire being directed upon the vessels. It is believed, however, that the Chinese, who will fail to capture the British, will attack the British, and will capture the British.

"I have no ink, and I fear we may be come to the end of the distress if the subject of the article does not follow most urgently required."

And I wrote my second telegram:—

"British and other subjects living crowdedly aboard on small boats, in great distress, recommend sending British man-of-war or steam-ship to the coast, provisions and water."

I was obliged to dispatch the certificate to the captain, instead of his Consul, as the latter is not at the Consular Agency on shore. I certified to the fact of his sailing in perfect sanitary condition. I am, however, confident that, as soon as circumstances might permit, I would forward you the tickets for transmission to England.

We left the "Genoese" to proceed on her voyage, and we noticed that it was 7:30 p.m. when she left. We found the "Chacal" unacceptably crowded, and so went on board the Bey's steamer "Hezar," whose Commander most hospitably received us. We prepare to pass the night on board, very well lodged compared with the thousands crowded on other boats.

[illegible]

It seems that, on the 27th, the townspeople sent men to call the Arabs, and as soon as the townspeople rose, we saw the Arabs coming on horseback, and making all the disturbance they could.

This affair will spread the revolution everywhere, for, as I indicated in my former Report, the slightest movement in any one place must spread the revolt all over the south of the Regency, if not even over the whole country. I believe that, after Sfax, Gabès will be the next place to rise.

I am thinking of sending Mr. Leadbetter on by to-morrow's postal French steamer to look after the posts of the station. A number of things have come to hand that may be of interest to you. I hope to forward to you his Report.

June 29.—We have passed the night on the "Beser," the officers doing everything to make us comfortable.

I have been assured that not a single European remained on land during the night. There is great hardship; provisions and water are both scarce. At noon, several Moors came back wounded, having been assaulted in procuring provisions for the fugitives; also, some Maltese having gone on shore, some Moors were wounded in trying to protect them.

The Arabs were firing with guns, blunderbusses, &c. One Maltese was killed and cut to pieces.

The "Mustapha," French mail-steamer, arrived at noon, having awaited orders from Tunis at Mchdm, and having sent over to the frigate, which she met, the Tunisian troops she had on board. She is returning to-night, probably to Tunis, and is already crammed full of passengers. I heard on board the "Mustapha" that the "Manoubia" was coming with 1,500 troops. The frigate came in just a little later on.

Signor Leonardi came on board the "Boscir" to consult with me. He said he had gone to the "Chacel," advising the Commander of the murder of the Maltese, and asking help for the British subjects, who are short of provisions and water. They cannot have any from shore, as all communication is stopped even with Moorish boats. Meanwhile M. Mattei arrived on board the "Boscir," accompanied by an officer from the frigate with a Hamda. The said Hamda was sent on shore with a Moorish boat, to see how he would be received. Signor Leonardi and I presented ourselves to M. Mattei, and Signor Leonardi gave him reasons for asking help, and he again asked what they were prepared to do for the British subjects. M. Mattei asked Signor Leonardi in what quality he was addressing him. He replied he was speaking as M. Mattei's colleague. M. Mattei said that Mr Leonardi must come on board the frigate and speak with the Commander. Signor Leonardi wished my company, but M. Mattei said he must go alone in this case without me, even although I had I went as British Vice-Consul of Sfax. Mr Leonardi had to go by himself, and he has not come back from the frigate, which is anchored at Sfax. Now, at 6 P.M., we are awaiting the return of the boat.

The Consul has returned, accompanied by an officer of the frigate. Signor Leonardi told me that the Commander promised to do his best to-morrow to supply the pressing wants of the British subjects, giving them water and biscuit. It seems the Commander even spoke of coming in to-morrow, and perhaps coming to bombard the town.

Signor Leonardi has all through behaved most nobly, rendering every possible assistance to the fugitives, and going on shore to the authorities when called on. He was already very dangerous.

At 6:30 P.M. crowds of Arabs on horseback are seen approaching the town from the south, as our glasses enable us to distinguish the clouds of dust.

June 30.—Stayed on board "Boscir." Yesterday evening townspeople and Arabs gathered together and dismissed Gellul from being Emir, and determined not to recognize him any more. Instead of him, they appointed the Bimbashi of the artillery as their leader and Bey, stipulating that neither provisions nor water must be allowed to be sent out to the fugitives, and that no Christian be allowed to land, under pain of death. The body of the murdered Maltese has been thrown about the street in pieces.

Last night all the townspeople were moving about the canons of the town, under the direction of the Bimbashi. This morning it is reported that the rabble of the town is against the respectable Moors, because they did not join in with them in their revolt. I believe a serious disturbance will take place between them. As early as yesterday there was a full-scale battle between the Moors and the Arabs. Very likely there will soon be civil war.

Until the situation is somewhat better in the *status quo* reported.

Maltese subjects.

I cannot give more particulars, as the mail is closing. We have no proper writing materials on board, therefore be pleased to excuse the roughness of the Report. Up to the present, 8 A.M., the French vessels have made no movement.

At the Murina on shore the people have made barricades of our bales of esparto that were lying there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM GALEA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39

Mr. Rende to the Bey of Tunis.

Highness,

Tunis, July 4, 1881.

TRUSTED by my Government with the charge of British interests in this Regency, I regret to be compelled to refer your Highness to the unfortunate occurrences that have within the last few days taken place at Sfax, and the circumstances under which the whole of the European and Hebrew communities of that town have fled from their houses and taken refuge on board vessels anchored in the roadstead.

That the same of the fugitives have been killed and others wounded proves that they were all driven out of the town and country. So imminent, indeed, was the danger from which they were flying that they had, one and all, to abandon their houses, shops, stores, household furniture, and all other effects and other property, personal or real, a great number of the refugees being destitute of even the very necessities of life.

All these evils having occurred in consequence of the insufficiency of the measures taken by the Local Government to counteract them, and notwithstanding it was publicly and generally known for some time previously to their occurrence that the country adjoining Sfax was in a state of disaffection and insubordination, it has become my bounden duty to invite your Highness' especial attention to these facts, to create, if possible, and, in the name of my Government, and on behalf of such of the British subjects under my jurisdiction who have not been able to address themselves to the Office for the redress which may be due to them in respect of any losses, damages, injuries, or misfortunes of any kind whatsoever, already sustained or which they may hereafter have to suffer, in consequence of the insurrectionary proceedings at Sfax and the insufficiency of the measures taken by the local authorities to protect them in their persons and property, to hereby formally protest against these local authorities, holding them, the said local authorities, the Government to whom they are subject, or whomsoever else it shall or may concern, responsible for the said losses, damages, and other evils.

While acquitting myself of this disagreeable duty, I beg to assure your Highness that I have ordered that such prompt and vigorous steps as may be necessary for the restoration of Sfax to a condition of peace, order, and good government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 40.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 201)

My Lord,

Rome, July 8, 1881.

IN the course of a conversation which I had with M. Mancini yesterday, his Excellency made some general observations respecting the French operations at Sfax (to which port an Italian ship arrived, about a week ago, an order to repair, in order to receive our country's flag, and so forth). He said that the Bey of Tunis, wing to M. Roustan holding the double capacity of French Representative and Minister of the Bey.

In speaking of the rising at Sfax, M. Mancini expressed the opinion that any want of success on the part of the French in suppressing it would be the signal for a general revolt of all the Arab tribes of the interior, to overcome which would require the display of very considerable forces.

As to the question of international relations at Tunis, his Excellency said that he could not give the view of Her Majesty's Government that Treaty rights were not affected by what had taken place, and he had directed General Manabrea to submit to your Lordship certain observations on this subject.

The Italian Government, his Excellency continued, still adhered to their original policy of not recognizing by any act, the state of things established by the French Treaty. They had, therefore, refrained from authorizing their Consul to receive the receipt of M. Roustan's letter communicating the Bey's Decree appointing him his intermediary with foreign Powers. On the departure of M. Maccio, the Vice-Consul, in making known to the Consular Body his assumption of the duties of the Italian Consulate, had addressed his Circular to M. Roustan, in his capacity of Representative of France, but not as Minister of the Bey.

He said that the Italian Government was now anxious to see the Bey's order under the denomination of contraband of war goods, and that they were working to obtain from the Bey a decree for working certain mines in the Regency, and that they had notified that unless they were allowed to import the articles in question they would be compelled to close their mines.

These complaints, his Excellency said, had been transmitted to the Bey directly, and not to His Highness through M. Roustan.

The Bey had received the complaints, but no answer had been returned to them, and of course His Highness had remitted them to M. Roustan.

For the prohibited importations the French Government, and not the Bey, was responsible; and of what avail, his Excellency inquired, would it be to discuss the complaints to which they gave rise with M. Roustan, even if the principle of doing so could be admitted?

Under these circumstances, M. Mancini said, it appeared to him it was impossible to contend that the Treaty rights between the Bey and foreign Powers were not affected by the French Protectorate which had now been established at Tunis; and he expressed the hope that your Lordship would give your attention to this aspect of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAVET

No. 41.

Mr. West to Earl Granville.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 144. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, July 8, 1881.

THE Marquis de la Vega de Araya has told me that he was at a loss to understand how the report of there being a Treaty between Spain and France for the occupation of Morocco, which had given rise to a question in the House of Lords, had got about, for, said his Excellency, no such Treaty most certainly exists. In the course of further conversation, he emphatically repeated that the Spanish Government could not and would not pursue a policy as regarded Morocco which did not meet with the cordial approval of Her Majesty's Government, and he scarcely supposed that any acquiescence on the part of Spain in a French occupation of the Sultan's territories on a similar pretext as that which led to the occupation of Tunis was likely to meet with it. He foresaw that the Eastern question, with all its complications, would, ere long, be removed to the shores of the Mediterranean, and he thought that the Government should be careful in preventing the temporary occupation of neighbour's territory from becoming permanent ought to concert common action in view of certain contingencies arising. There was no doubt in his mind as to the intentions of the French Government to take advantage of the first opportunity of treating the Sultan of Morocco as they had treated the Bey of Tunis and to afford a pretext for being given to understand that the Moorish tribes on the Algerian frontier were in a very excited state, and inclined to assist the Algerian insurgents. Unless, therefore, the policy of *laissez faire* were to prevail in order that France might extend the benefits of her civilization to North Africa, he thought that her aggressive attitude at the present moment should be taken into serious consideration by other European nations, which had perhaps more real interest in extending their civilization to that country than France arrogated to herself. He then proceeded to develop at some length the policy which he was desirous of seeing pursued, remarking at the same time that he was now speaking to me as a private individual and not as Her Majesty's Minister. This policy consisted in the concerted action of Spain in Morocco in order to prevent the establishment of a French protectorate, but he evidently did not see that the one might be as displeasing to Her Majesty's Government as the other. I merely remarked, therefore, that his Excellency must be fully aware of the policy which Her Majesty's Government had and may pursue in matters relating to Morocco and the independence of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 42.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 11.)

Sir,

Admiralty, July 9, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Captain

Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 2nd instant, from Goletta, relative to the outbreak at Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

"Monarch," at Goletta, July 2, 1881.

Sir, THE telegram from Suza which announced an outbreak at Sfax of a serious nature took all here by surprise. On the 26th the condition of affairs was that the Arabs tribes in very considerable numbers were known to be outside Sfax, and the probability of the townspeople to enter it with the view of opposing the French troops. A danger to the residents of Sfax was expressed, and the French troops were ordered to Sfax to oppose them. Tunisian troops were also sent to Sfax, and the danger to the townspeople was expressed.

2. On the 27th, the "Chacal" sent two or three boats armed, it is reported, to cover their embarkation, which was in process. The "Chacal's" boats were fired at by the Arabs. The French boats prudently withdrew without firing, and to that we are probably indebted that no further loss of life occurred, and the embarkation of all Europeans and Jews was completed.

3. A boat from one of the French ships for water was also fired at with effect and driven off. The Maltese who, it is reported, was killed, was one of the vessels about to the shore with the view of obtaining provisions, &c.; he was killed by some expressions with reference to the French, and was killed.

4. It is said that the French Consul's house was attacked, the flag-staff and flag thrown down, and he and two Frenchmen were wounded on shore. The Governor fled, and it is said the Captain of the fort now commands the town in insurrection.

5. Simultaneously with the above information came that telling us that all Europeans and Jews were to be killed.

6. The "Maria Pia" would come also, if "Condor" went.

7. It was possible that if our presence were accepted in a friendly light by the Arabs, it might encourage them to resist; if, on the other hand, we appeared to them to be involved adversely to them, the lives of all Jews and Christians along the coast might be endangered.

8. I felt that it was probable that the French naval officer would be ordered to strike a blow. On the afternoon of the 30th, 800 or 1,000 Tunisians were sent by the "Manoubia," a French packet.

9. It is openly stated that these men when at Tunis, and when they were sent, freely their determination not to fight.

10. Much therefore as I desire to act, I feel it would be safer for others not to do so. I feel it would be safer for others not to do so.

11. The people that have arrived here from Tunis, and from other parts, will show how probable it is that the force of a small gon-vessel on the spot coupled with the dispatch of so insignificant a force as fifty men, whose approach was known to the insurgents, precipitated matters.

12. There does not appear to be any real danger to the Europeans and Jews here, and, on the other hand, the Europeans and Jews here are a race subject to panic, and the approach of a small force of French troops would produce that which I fear has caused much distress, and the loss of life.

13. The people that have arrived here from Tunis, and from other parts, will show how probable it is that the force of a small gon-vessel on the spot coupled with the dispatch of so insignificant a force as fifty men, whose approach was known to the insurgents, precipitated matters.

14. The Arabs now express regret that they did not attack the French ships, and not in any way against Europeans generally, and I hear from several quarters that this is not ordinary panic rumours are, to the contrary, that some of the Arabs entering Sfax, did so calling a Holy War. This is, happily, quite incorrect.

15. The Arabs now express regret that they did not attack the French ships, and not in any way against Europeans generally, and I hear from several quarters that this is not ordinary panic rumours are, to the contrary, that some of the Arabs entering Sfax, did so calling a Holy War. This is, happily, quite incorrect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

[1268]

H

| Date. | Tunis. | Sfax (telegraph interrupted.) | Susa (telegraph open). |
|---------|---|---|--|
| June 25 | "Chacal" sailed for Sfax to watch smugglers. | | |
| 26 | | | |
| 27 | "Aïna" and "Mustapha Ben Ismail" and 50 troops left for Sfax. | Chacal arrived. | |
| 28 | | Outbreak at Sfax. | |
| 29 | "Manoubah" with 1,000 (?) Tunis troops sailed. | Chacal arrived and Mustapha Ben Ismail left. | English steamer arrived from Sfax. Telegram sent to Tunis announcing outbreak there. |
| 30 | Telegram from Tunis announcing hostilities recommenced. | "Manoubah" and 1,000 (?) Tunisian troops probably arrived in afternoon. | |
| July 1 | "Régiment Blanche" sailed with 200 Tunisian troops, both regular and militia, for Sfax. Outbreak at Sfax recommenced about 10 a.m. Saw Koussan. | | |
| 2 | | "Régiment Blanche" should arrive early with 400 troops. | |

(Signed) **G. TRYON, Captain.**

Inclosure 3 ul No. 42

TABLE of Distances between Malta and Ports on the Coast of Tunis.

| Tugla La Sura | | 120 miles | Sura to Malta | 200 miles |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| " | Mehedim | 140 | Mehedim to Malta | " |
| " | St. X | 140 | St. X to Malta | " |
| " | Khabou | 140 | Khabou to Malta | " |
| " | Sura to Bay | 140 | Sura to Bay | " |

(Signed) G. TRYON, *Captain.*

No. 43.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, July 12.)

(Confidentielle.)
(Télégraphique)

Constantinople, le 7 Juil. 1881

DEPUIS quelque temps l'Ambassade de France ne cesse de nous insinuer que les mesures que nous avons dû prendre à Tripoli nous exposeraient à un péril extrême.

Cette insinuation cache une menace qui ne peut échapper à personne. Nous ne voyons aucune raison dans l'accusation dirigée contre nous par les Français par rapport aux mesures que nous sommes en droit de prendre pour garantir l'ordre intérieur à Tripoli. Revenir à plusieurs reprises sur une pareille thèse c'est prétendre nous contester la plénitude de nos droits sur une province nous appartenant.

Je vous prie d'attirer l'attention sérieuse de Lord Granville sur cette attitude significative de la France.

Mr. SUGGISON to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 12.)

(Confidential)

1 AM commanded by my Lord's representatives of the Admiralty, transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the enclosed two letters, dated the 8th and 10th inst., and the enclosed circular, issued by the Captain of Her Majesty's ships "Monarch" and "Comet" relative to the state of matters at Sfax.

I am, &c.
Yours, &c. E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Telegraph

"Monarch," *et Star*, July 8, 1881.

CONSTITUTION at St. Ignace changed. He married in 1904, and

Enclosure 2 of No. 44

Commander Exerton to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Condor," at *Buss*, July 10, 1881.

9th. from the "Munarch":—

"Another French iron-clad expected at Sfax and very considerable force of troops and two batteries artillery.

"No alteration of conditions here."

No. 45

Mr. Herbert to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 12.)

215

Downing Street, July 11, 1851.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 5th instant, enclosing a telegram from the Governor of Malta respecting the arrival in that island of refugees from Syria I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, to be laid before Lord Granville, a copy of a second telegram announcing the arrival of 170 more refugees, and a note dated 20th ult. in regard to the same.

Lord Kimberley desires me to state that, with Lord Granville's concurrence, he proposes to instruct the Governor to provide the fugitives temporarily with the necessaries of life, and to report to what countries the foreigners among them belong, with a view to arranging with their respective Governments for their future disposal.

(Signed) ROBERT G W HERBERT

Inclosure in No. 45.

The Governor of Malta to the Earl of Kimberley.

(Telegraphic.)

July 7, 1861.

OTHER 370 passengers, including about 200 foreign subjects, almost all utterly destitute, arrived this morning from Sfax by French steamer "Insulaire."

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 12, 2.23 A.M.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic)

Tunis, July 11, 1881, 3.10 P.M.

BOMBARDMENT of Sfax continued on the 9th instant, without, I believe, much damage done.

All quiet at Sfax and the other towns of the coast. Presence of ships of war has a reassuring effect, and prevents panic among Christians.

2,500 French troops just arrived from Toulon, and forwarded, with battery of field artillery, to Sfax.

The French soldiers have returned from Sfax, the city being doubted.

Remarks on the consequences of the Treaty of May 12, 1881, between France and Tunisia, and the Bey's Decree of June 8, 1881.—(Communicated by General Menabrea, July 12, 1881.)

(Continued.)

INCOMPATIBILITÉ des fonctions de Ministre-Résident de France à Tunis avec celles de Délégué pour les Affaires Étrangères du Bey.

Il est évident que ces attributions ne peuvent pas être cumulées sur le même fonctionnaire, car les intérêts des deux Gouvernements, que celui-ci est appelé à défendre, peuvent se trouver en opposition les uns avec les autres; ainsi le cas peut arriver que l'un des deux Gouvernements ait un intérêt à ce que l'autre ne fasse pas telle ou telle chose.

2. Dispositions de l'Article II du Traité de 1881, et de l'Article I^{er} du Traité de 1881.

En vertu de ces dispositions, tous les privilèges et toutes les prérogatives accordées par le Bey aux Consuls d'une Puissance quelconque sont étendus, *ipso facto*, aux Consuls du Royaume Uni et aux Consuls du Royaume d'Italie à Tunis.

On ne voit pas comment on pourrait concilier les dispositions de ces Articles avec les fonctions confiées non pas à M. Roustan mais au Ministre-Résident de France, qui est en même temps le Consul de la République.

3. Garantie donnée par la France, en vertu du Traité de 1881, au Bey de Tunisie.

Les Puissances qui, comme l'Angleterre, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, l'Espagne, les États-Unis, ont des engagements avec le Gouvernement de Tunisie, sont intéressées à ce que la France se rende garante de l'exécution de toutes les obligations qui incombent au Gouvernement Tunisien.

En effet, dans le cas où ces engagements ne seraient pas remplis, autre chose est pour une Puissance étrangère d'exiger leur exécution (par les moyens consentis par le droit international), du Gouvernement de Tunis autre chose est de le réclamer de la France qui s'en est rendue responsable.

Cette position deviendrait encore plus difficile si les réclamations se référaient non plus seulement au Gouvernement du Bey mais se trouvaient en conflit avec les prétentions du Gouvernement Français lui-même. Ou bien si ce Gouvernement se mettait en place et lieu du Gouvernement Tunisien pour soutenir les droits de ce dernier qui dérivent des Traités eux-mêmes avec les Puissances étrangères.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1881, 4.50 P.M.

Is it true that Hamida Ben Ayad, a British land-owner in Tunisia, has been told that real property cannot be sold without the consent of M. Roustan?

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin

(No. 484.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 12, 1881

THE Turkish Ambassador at London has just received a telegram from the Government of Constantinople, which is a copy of the letter addressed by the French Embassy at Constantinople with regard to the measures which the Porte had thought it necessary to take in Tripoli.

Lord Musurus Pasha had no objection to the measures which the Porte had taken, but what measures were necessary to maintain order in Tripoli.

At the same time I repeated the advice I had already given to the Sultan's Government to exercise great prudence in the measures which it should take in Tripoli.

The latter, I said, were placed in a position of difficulty by the insurrection of the tribes. They might easily take an exaggerated view of the steps which it was necessary for them to take, and we should much regret to see the relations of France and Turkey in a state of tension.

Musurus Pasha said that he would communicate these observations to his Government, and that he believed they were in accordance with their views. But he observed that, in order to prevent causes of quarrel arising, it was absolutely necessary to have a sufficient military force in Tripoli to control the tribes. For this purpose the troops there must be further increased.

I said that any large increase of troops would be considered by the French as a menace, as they suspected the Turkish authorities of having given some encouragement to the agitation which was now causing them trouble in Tunis and Algeria.

Musurus Pasha entirely denied the truth of this suspicion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 13.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 12, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of two letters from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 5th instant, reporting proceedings at Sfax, and inclosing a sketch-map of that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON

Inclosure 1 to No. 50

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir

"Monarch," Sfax, July 5, 1881

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Tunis on the afternoon of the 2nd instant, on the receipt of a telegram from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty directing me to proceed to Sfax.

2. I towed Her Majesty's ship "Condor," and arrived here the afternoon of the 3rd, a few hours after the arrival of the "Reine Blanche." Our arrival created a considerable sensation on shore among the Moors and Arabs.

3. The dwellers in houses are called generally Moors, and the Arabs live in tents, and do not enter the houses, they are not usually friendly, but have united on this occasion.

4. The Chief of the Arabs, who has influence over many tribes, is one Ali Ben Hahfa. He is said to be an able man. He has not allowed his people to enter the town lately, he assigns as a reason, he fears they would begin a pillage.

5. The tribe that dwells in the neighbourhood of Sfax is called the Metefete, but from elsewhere are others, the Llash, Hemmenia, Agareb, Mehedebe, Werremma, Uderma, Accara, and Nefet (to which Hahfa belongs), and others. All, I am told, are from the district between this and Ghabes, and from the interior. It is supposed there are 7,000 (?) Moors who possess arms of some sort in the town, and the number of Arabs outside is large and variously stated.

6. My letter of the 2nd is generally confirmed by subsequent information on the spot.

7. The "Chacal" gun-vessel arrived on the 27th. On the 28th the Lieutenant in command visited the French Consul in uniform, and returned to his ship and changed his clothes, and, with one or two others, returned to the shore, when the insurrection suddenly began. The French officers escaped to their boat; the Consul, less fortunate, was too late, and was wounded and severely treated, and driven into the sea, where he was rescued from the assailants by a Maltese. The people generally were allowed to embark. Order, in the abandoned part of the town, has so far been perfectly maintained by the present Governor. No property has been touched.

8. The Moors use only the straight street that leads through it from their part of the town to the beach.

9. All concur that the outbreak was due to the news that 500 artillerymen were coming in the French iron-clad "Alma." When the telegraph announcing that fact was read, as it was by the Governor, the Captain of the fort was one of the first to jump up, rush out, and cry out, "War!" He should have had under his command 125 men, but they existed only on paper.

10. The late Governor had to fly on the 28th; he took refuge in a tomb (a "marn-bont," a sacred place). After some time he escaped to a Tunisian vessel, and thence was taken to the "Alma" and has been the means so far used to communicate with the town.

11. Captain Mot, of the "Alma," before the arrival of Captain Marquessac, who is Senior Officer in the "Reine Blanche," on the forenoon of the day Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" arrived, has done all in his power to mitigate the distress of the refugees, those willing to go have their departure facilitated. Water and provisions have been supplied. The desire and object of the French officer was to get the Tunisian 1,500 soldiers who crowd their ships to the shore.

12. Ali Sherif, late in command of the fort of the Bey, is now in command of the town.

13. All concur in saying that the Arabs and Moors have so far, shown a very kindly feeling for our cause. The only life lost was that of a Maltese, but I hear it was the result of an accident, so far as he was concerned. It appears probable it was a case of mistaken nationality.

14. A fear has been expressed lest our presence should be misinterpreted by the Arabs and Moors, and change their feelings towards us. I have done my utmost to prevent this, and I have received assurances that I will, as expected, be object by their messengers sent to me from the town, and have expressed the gratification I feel that they have respected property. The reply was, "If the French fire, the Arabs will enter the town, and we can't be answerable." All this, and many details, have been fully entered into by the French Naval Commander, but their orders from France, received to-day, appear to me to be peremptory to act. Their force is inadequate. The town can be destroyed by guns, but what then, if it is not abandoned by its defenders? The rough sketch appended gives an idea of the case.

15. Most of the property will be destroyed, but the French ships will act with resolution is very doubtful. A message of warning has been sent off from the town, and another of promise for the Moors.

16. They appear to be ignorant that they do not appreciate how powerless their guns are. They are shown over this ship. I have reason to know that the French Naval Commanders are prepared, or constrained, to exert the power of their guns before using their force, but this may be modified in the face of recent instructions.

17. I have nominated a Committee of officers to superintend the distribution of relief, carefully inquiring into the cases. Mr. Leconte, our Consul Agent at Sfax, is here, and aids us with his knowledge of the people in distress. Mr. Green, Vice Consul of Sfax, is also here. He looks to his property. I have been very careful to keep within the limits of my instructions.

18. I have sent the "Condor" to Sfax to the end of the telegraph, if it is interrupted she proceeds to Malta, with orders to telegraph and to wait reply, and then to return here with such few stores as I wish for.

19. Should there be an outbreak at Sfax, "Condor" has orders precisely similar to those I am acting on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral R. H. Seymour.

Monarch, Sfax, July 5, 1881.

Sir,

ON the afternoon of the 5th July, at 4:15 p.m., the French gun-boat "Chacal" opened fire on the walls and forts of the town defences, directing her guns apparently chiefly at a fort near to the sea, which is detached from the walls of the town and is on the jetty. At 5:10 the "Pique" gun-boat joined her, and they continued firing till they were recalled by signal from the "Reine Blanche" at 5:25. They had fired about fifty shot and shell. The fort returned with a desultory fire, firing less than twenty shots, the majority of which fell short. The range was approximately 2,400 yards. The gun-vessels were not struck.

2. My impression is that the exhibition of strength and of destructive power was not sufficient to influence the natives in the direction of giving up the town.

3. Captain Marquessac has just informed me that he intends to open fire from the "Alma" and "Reine Blanche," and the gun-vessels "Chacal" and "Pique," to-morrow. There are 700 French troops present, including a small number of cavalry, and 1,500 unreliable Tunisian soldiers, all afloat.

4. A French steamer has been detained by the Senior French Naval Officer a few hours, to give an opportunity for such refugees to take a passage to Malta as will avail themselves of it. My boats are engaged in transferring them from small craft to this vessel, and I have sanctioned some expenditure in this matter.

5. The people on shore have hoisted a green and red flag, which is said to be a sign of their resolution to fight.

6. Two days ago the proper Governor of Sfax, one St. Houpa Gelluti, now in refuge on board the "Alma," sent a letter in the Bey's name to desire the people to act in accordance with his directions, and to submit. Yesterday, the 4th July, after the arrival of the telegraph from France, at 6 p.m., a flag of truce in a Tunisian boat, flying a Turkish flag, was towed by a French boat near to the shore. It conveyed a letter telling the powers on shore that the French present were the Executive of the Bey, and unless they acted in it would go badly for them. All communications were made in the name of the Bey.

7. I have reason, from what I have observed, to know that the attack was prepared for and expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON

No. 51.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 13.)

Sir,
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Captain Tryon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Monarch," Sfax, July 11, 1881.

NEWS obtained from highest French sources is threatening with regard to Tripoli. Heavy cavalry for this, ready on wharf, were not allowed to embark.

French monks insulted.

French Mediterranean fleet and Admiral expected here.

No. 64.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 17)

(Confidential)

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State the following despatch, received from Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," Sfax, the 16th July, from Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure in No. 64

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty

(Telegraphic)

"Monarch," Sfax, July 16, 1881.

AT dawn Sfax was bombarded. At half-past 6 it was assaulted and [?] taken by the women of the French fleet and troops under cover of a heavy fire from boats. Losses of French inconsiderable. Difficulties not great. About sixty killed and wounded.

No. 65.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 72.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 8, 1881.

THE French naval force before Sfax proceeded to bombard that town on the 5th instant, the firing lasting from 5 to 8 p.m.

On the following day a brisk and continuous cannonade from the direction of Sfax was distinctly heard at Menendia. The town batteries returned fire. I have received no further news.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 66.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 73.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 11, 1881.

SFAX continued to be bombarded on the 9th instant, the damage done to the town being, I believe, inconsiderable. At Susa and the other towns of the coast all is quiet. Owing to the presence there of ships of war, the Christian population is reassured, and free from the influence of panic. A French force of 2,500 men has just arrived from Toulon, and is being forwarded to Sfax, together with a field battery of six guns.

The Tunisian troops have returned from the coast, where, it appears, no confidence was felt in their loyalty to the Bey's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 67.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 13, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 80 of the 6th instant, reporting upon the insurrection at Sfax, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship's Office a further narration of events by Mr. Vice-Consul Galea, as they occurred at that place, during the first eight days of this month.

35

I omitted to explain in my former despatch, as the cause of Mr. Lennardi's being in temporary charge of the British Consular Agency at Sfax, that Mr. Edward Carlton, the late Agent, had tendered his resignation of the appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Vice-Consul Galea to Mr. Reade.

Sfax Anchorage, July 9, 1881.

Sir, IN continuation of my Report of the 1st July, I have the honour to state as follows.—

July 1.—The "Lagaria," steam-ship, came in at 2 p.m. and left at 6 p.m., taking a not very large number of passengers to Susa and Tunis.

In the afternoon Arabs visited the ships and endeavoured to persuade Europeans to land, no doubt for the purpose of retaining them as hostages in case of bombardment.

Fearing attack from the shore, the Commander of the "Alma" decided to tow the Bey's steamers "Besher" and "Asid" further out to sea.

The Governor, Si Ilouna Gelluli, remained on board the "Alma," receiving all his luggage on board.

This day we have received water and provisions from the shore, and the citizens seem determined to keep on the best terms possible with the fugitives.

July 2.—I have had various reports communicated to me regarding negotiations between the Sfax people and those of Tripoli, but I never till now deemed fit to bring the same to your knowledge, as I believed them to be greatly exaggerated. But it appears that the reports were more or less correct, and respectable Moors now inform me that hosts of Tripoli Arabs are marching on Sfax, each tribe digging wells along its march so as to insure a supply of water.

Ab-ben-Hiffa has arrived at Sfax with 200 horsemen. This forenoon the "Maquouba" towed out to the vicinity of the "Alma" anchorage the two steamers of the Bey and all the barges containing fugitives. All are now anchored in 6 fathoms of water and about 4 miles from the shore.

There are some doubts as to the death of the second Maltese whose murder I reported. His body was seen to be lowered into the sea, but the order of the first Maltese was not followed. The body, it is believed, was thrown into the sea. The body was seen to be lowered into the sea, but the order of the first Maltese was not followed. The body, it is believed, was thrown into the sea.

The "Italia" arrived at 9 a.m. and left at a little after 1 p.m., taking a number of refugees as passengers.

At noon our agent at Gabes, the Anglo-Canadian, arrived, having had to abandon all the affairs of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., at that place. He was the last Christian to leave, and there is, therefore, not a single Christian at Gabes.

A boat from Sfax reported at Gabes what was taking place here. Immediately the alarm went round that the French were coming, the Arabs shouted out "Ghedel Ghedel!" and messengers were sent round to all the villagers, and there was consequently the same excitement there as there is at Sfax.

M. Sicard, the French Consular Agent, and his Dragonnais ran a good deal of risk in escaping. The French vessel appears near Gabes, it is very probable the Arabs will be deterred by the destruction of the property of European subjects, which would be very serious, as there is property at stake at Gabes of much value.

In the afternoon the ship "Allegro" left for Malta, with over 200 passengers.

The "Chacal" arrived at 9.45 a.m., and the frigate "Reine Blanche" arrived at 11.5 a.m., laden with Tunisian troops.

At 1 p.m. the British ship "Agnes," of Shields, 1,011 tons register, Captain McGregor, arrived to the consignee of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., of Liverpool, for export.

In Sfax they have formed a Medjiss (or Tribunal), before which all cases are tried. This Tribunal consists of forty men, and they arrest people and administer justice in every way, maintaining good order among the inhabitants.

The townspeople have sent all their women and children out to live in the gardens.

* Arab war-cry applied to Christian and other heretics.

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OFFICE LONDON

The town is comparatively empty. They all look upon the town as doomed, and as a result of this, the townspeople will fight to the last extremity. Ali-ben-Hilis is leader of the Arabs, of which a very large number is concentrated in the town.

The Tunisian soldiers on the "Monarch" are in a state of disaffection, and have almost openly revolted. Yesterday two of them swam across the 400 yards of distance that separated them from the "Beshir," trying to find means to escape on shore, but we were unable to persuade them to go back to their steamer. Although we are more than 4 miles from the shore, four or five set off to swim on shore, but some were caught and brought back. Three, it is reported, reached the shore, having probably obtained some assistance from Moorish boats.

After sunset the Chid Gelluli and Besh Hamba sent a Moorish boat on shore, commanded by the Italian Consular Agent's boat captain, Houd-el-Hage, and with him letters earnestly recommending the townspeople to submit to the Bey's orders.

I learn that, with regard to the murder of the Maltese, gave provocation, saying to them that they had done it, but this is out of the question, as in the could not far

where he is lying late at

July 4. More soldiers were caught swimming.

At 10 A.M. the "Mustafa" arrived, bringing provisions for the Tunisian troops.

The "Monarch" is late shipping provisions and water to the needy of all nations.

The "Claval" went to the Kena Island, it is believed to try to get boat-loads of troops.

Notwithstanding the from the shore for those who

died of his wounds.

As yet I have not seen any of the

the result of the attack on Sfax. If Sfax falls, the revolution, and very possibly all the towns of the coast will be in the hands of the Tunisian authorities. If any of the towns are prolonged, the insurgents will be able to move on and they may do before a check may be put to all their movements.

There was no communication with the shore.

At 1 P.M. the French in the course of the evening.

Three French gun-boats have left. At 7 A.M. the

The French have fired some desultory shots. An examination of

some reveals the fact that the

close to the embankment whence the townspeople had been

of the appear also to be injured.

On the French sending their steam-launches in-shore, they were fired upon by the Arabs with muskets and the artillery of the forts. This led to a short bombardment on the part of the French.

In the dusk of the evening the French steam-launches reconnoitred close to the shore,

It appears that very few troops came in the transport-ship "Sartre," and that the attack is therefore going on thus slowly and unsatisfactorily.

July 8.—Boats arrived from Gerba to discharge esparto on board the "Agnes." The captains report that great fear of the Arabs exists at Gerba, and that the sailing people of that island are afraid to leave their homes.

The French up till noon are engaged reconnoitring near the shore, and every now and then they fire a few shots into the town. The townspeople sometimes reply, but in an apparently hopeless manner.

The Italian transport left for Tunis at 6 P.M.

July 9.—At 7 A.M. the "Liguria" merchant steamer arrived from Malta and Tripoli.

In the full tide of the night three or four Maltese, on behalf of the French, went close to the shore and brought out a number of boats suitable for landing troops. They found a

A French gun-boat, the "Pie," is coming in at 4 P.M., also the Transatlantique Company's steamer "Consulaire." The "Claval" is leaving for Sfax.

The "Claval," having advanced to within rather over 2,000 yards of the jetty, has commenced bombarding the town at 4.30 P.M. Later on, the "Pie" advanced towards the shore, and at 5 P.M. it also commenced to fire on the town. The townspeople are but their shots are falling short.

The shells are being chiefly directed against the forts between the European suburb and the shore and jetty. At last, a shot from the town passed between the masts of the "Pie," and at 5.25 P.M. both gun-boats were withdrawn to the outer anchorage. The fort at the Marina appears to be completely knocked down, and the

Up till noon the British Consular Agent, were engaged in taking as many of the refugees as could be persuaded to take them gratis to Malta.

There were fifty-four shots fired on the part of the French, and seven or eight shots on the part of the town.

July 6.—At 4.50 A.M. the "Alma" and "Reine Blanche" approached as much as they could safely. At 5.45 A.M. and at a distance of 2 miles, they commenced

arrived with the mails, some mules, some French soldiers, The mules and soldiers were

The "Alma" and the "Pie" had advanced in

The "Alma." The "Pennsula" had already left for Malta, with

gun-boats, and they fell short. The gun-boats tried to silence the

anything else, as they fell short. The gun-boats tried to silence the

At 3 P.M. the firing ceased.

French fired in the morning and in the afternoon 144 shots. It does not yet appear that the town has been damaged, but there must have been destruction inside the Moorish town, nearly all quarters being struck.

At 4.20 P.M. the "Léopard" arrived, and went at once in-shore and the inner anchorage.

It is reported to me by a messenger in the "Drizat" that all towns up the coast are the result of the attack on Sfax. If Sfax falls, the revolution, and very possibly all the towns of the coast will be in the hands of the Tunisian authorities. If any of the towns are prolonged, the insurgents will be able to move on and they may do before a check may be put to all their movements.

There was no communication with the shore.

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In the dusk of the evening the French steam-launches reconnoitred close to the shore,

It appears that very few troops came in the transport-ship "Sartre," and that the attack is therefore going on thus slowly and unsatisfactorily.

July 8.—Boats arrived from Gerba to discharge esparto on board the "Agnes." The captains report that great fear of the Arabs exists at Gerba, and that the sailing people of that island are afraid to leave their homes.

The French up till noon are engaged reconnoitring near the shore, and every now and then they fire a few shots into the town. The townspeople sometimes reply, but in an apparently hopeless manner.

The Italian transport left for Tunis at 6 P.M.

July 9.—At 7 A.M. the "Liguria" merchant steamer arrived from Malta and Tripoli.

In the full tide of the night three or four Maltese, on behalf of the French, went close to the shore and brought out a number of boats suitable for landing troops. They found a

boat loaded with hales of esparto, and succeeded in bringing it also out to the "Alma." The dogs of the esparto yards were barking loudly at the time, but nobody took any notice of them, and they are of opinion that the town could easily have been taken by assault, or, at least, that the guns could have been spiked with impunity.

Some rumours are current at Gerba, to which place the well-to-do Gabes Jews have fled. They say that the Hifi of Gabes has fled to Kerwan, and that Haj Mohammedi-ben-Hifi is managing affairs in Gabes as Governor.

The French continue to gather empty boats round the men-of-war, so as to be able to land troops. Every now and then a shot is fired.

They are transferring Tunisian troops from the Bey's steamer to the mail-steamer "Manoubia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GALFA

No. 63.

E Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 688.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 17, 1881.

I REPLYED very fully to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this morning the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 676 of the 15th inst. I observed that I had reported to you that I had been told that the French Government had been asked to give up the question of Tunis, and that they had refused to do so. I went on to say that, in view of the fact that Tripoli was unquestionably a part of the Ottoman Empire, and in view, moreover, of the proximity of the question to Egypt, it was impossible that Her Majesty's Government could regard as a matter of whatever description, on the part of the French Government, a refusal to do so in the manner as they had viewed recent occurrences in Tunis.

I reminded M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that Her Majesty's Government had been always perfectly frank with the French Government whenever the question of any extension of French influence in the direction of Egypt had been under discussion, and I adverted to the conversation which I had had with him when he came to see me on the 16th January last. He would, I said, remember that, in the course of that conversation, he had said that he conceived it to be most important that Tunis should exist as an independent State, to form a buffer ("tampon") between Algeria and the territories in Africa farther east. Nor would he have forgotten that he had remarked to me that if France were in possession of Tunis, she would have difficulties with Italy about Tripoli, or that he had not in any way disputed the observation I had thereupon made, that if France were in possession of Tunis she would have got a great deal too near Egypt.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire answered that he perfectly recollected the conversation, and that the sentiments he had expressed in it had undergone no change. As regarded Tunis, he could assure me that the object of the French Government was simply to make that Regency a well-governed, well-ordered, and prosperous country, which might be a safe and useful neighbour to Algeria, and might advantageously stand between French territory and the less civilized Mussulman countries to the east. As regarded Tripoli, the French Government regarded it as indisputably a part of the Ottoman Empire, and they had no intention whatever either of invading it or of attempting to establish any exclusive or predominant influence in it. The remonstrances which had been addressed to the Porte had been of a friendly character, and they had not been made until the French Government had been assured that the Turkish Government was not in a position to do so. The Porte had been warned of the danger which might arise if it did not do so, and it had been assured that it could rely on the French Government to support its hopes and wishes, the French Government were even to take the necessary steps to prevent the Turkish Government from doing so, and their troops would not cross the frontier of Egypt.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire went on to say that he had been assured that the Turkish Government had been dispatched expressly to prevent the lawless proceedings which he deprecated and to maintain the Sultan's own authority over the tribes. He had, he said, accepted these assurances, but had at the same time pointed out that the dispatch of Turkish troops to Tripoli had undoubtedly had the practical effect of stirring up a dangerous excitement among the tribes, both in Tripoli itself and in Tunis. This excitement was, however, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire was fain to believe, subsiding, and he added that the measures taken against Sfax, and the moral effect of the presence in the Gulf of Gabes of the large French naval squadron which had been sent there, would have the effect of preventing any further outbreak. Finally, as regarded Egypt, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire declared that it would be a real and great sorrow to him if anything should occur to weaken the close and cordial understanding between France and England with respect to that country. He was occupied in endeavours to turn that good understanding to account at the present moment, for the purpose of improving the judicial system and other matters, and he relied upon it to produce prosperity in Egypt and to consolidate friendship between France and England. I proceeded to say that certainly Her Majesty's Government had shown the greatest possible consideration for France with regard to the recent occurrences in Tunis, but that M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire's statement that the question would arise should France attempt to exercise any exclusive or predominant influence with regard to Tripoli. It was I said, in the circumstances that in which M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire had just spoken that Her Majesty's Government felt bound to give this early intimation of their views respecting a question which, if raised, might bear unfavourably upon the cordial friendship which had so long happily subsisted between the two countries, and which Her Majesty's Government believed to be essential to their mutual interests as well as most valuable to the peace and general well-being of Europe.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he would write immediately to the French Ambassador in London a despatch, to be communicated to your Lordship, which would contain such an explicit statement of the views of the French Government with regard to Tripoli as could not fail to be satisfactory to the Government of Her Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS

No. 69.

Mr. Rende to Earl Granville.—(Received July 18, 1 P.M.)

(No. 77.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, July 18, 1881, 7 A.M.

Sfax was taken by assault and occupied by French troops yesterday, after what is reported to have been a serious resistance. The Bey's authority has been re-established at Sfax.

No. 70.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 688.)

M. Lyons.

Foreign Office, July 18, 1881.

I HAVE now your despatch No. 688 of the 17th instant, recording the receipt of your telegram of the 16th inst. M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire on the subject of Tripoli, and I have to express to you my sincere approval of the manner in which you have carried out the instructions on the subject conveyed to your Excellency in my despatch No. 676 of the 15th inst.

Her Majesty's Government await the promised communication to them of the despatch which, they understand, was about to be addressed to the French Ambassador in London upon this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 71.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Wolham.

(No. 316A. Confidential.)

Sir,

London, July 18, 1881.

I CONFIDENTIALLY informed the German Ambassador on the general purport of the communication which Her Majesty's Government have thought it

right to make to that of France with regard to Tripoli, as set forth in my instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, of which you have been furnished with a copy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 72

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 45.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 18, 1881.

I HAVE to instruct you to convey to Mr. Leonardi, the British Consular Agent at Sfax, my approval of the energy and courage he displayed in assisting the escape of the European residents on the occasion of the insurrection at that place, as described in your despatch No. 80 of the 6th instant and the report from Mr. Vice-Consul Galea which accompanied it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 73.

Earl Granville to Mr. West.

(No. 76A. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 18, 1881.

THE SECRETARY has been really upon the subject of Morocco. He said that his Government were apprehensive that in the course of the autumn, probably about October, the French would make some military movement or demonstration from Algeria across the Moroccan frontier. It was probable that England and Spain should consider what course it should be best to take in such an eventuality.

I told the Marquis de Casa Langlosa that I had heard nothing to give foundation for such an anticipation as he mentioned. I imagined that the feelings of the two Governments in regard to Morocco were very similar. We had no ambitious or aggressive designs ourselves with regard to that country, and we should be anxious to prevent such designs on the part of any other Power.

I should be glad, I said, if his Government would communicate to us any information bearing upon the existence of such an intention on the part of France as he had mentioned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 74

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 18, 1881.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship concurs in the arrangements proposed in your letter of the 13th instant, for providing for the presence of ships of war in Tunisian waters, and for the early return of Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour and his squadron to Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 75

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 19.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 18, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of Lord Tenterden, a copy of two letters received from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated at Sfax, the 9th instant, reporting his proceedings and the movements of Her Majesty's ships in Tunisian waters.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour

Sir,

"Monarch," Sfax, July 9, 1881.

ON the 9th instant I received a telegram acquainting me that Her Majesty's ship "Iris" was sent to Tunis, and was placed under my orders.

2 I have written to acquaint Captain Seymour fully with the condition of affairs, and have given him orders similar to those under which I am acting. I have desired him to remain there, but should Captain Egerton, of the "Condor," telegraph or send to say he required aid, that in that case, if he could be spared, acting in concert with Mr. Reade, he was to join the "Condor," but return immediately refugees were safe.

3 Her Majesty's ship "Condor" has full instructions, and has been told to visit, on a suitable day, Monastier and Mehediah, thus will enable Captain Egerton to see Captain Conti, of the "Maria Pia," with whom he is intimate, and learn if she is to remain on that portion of the coast, &c.

4 I thought probable the protracted nature of the attack, or a possible tentative attack might encourage and spread the rising. The conditions are not simplified by the Maltese whose services for hire with their boats or persons are available for the French, and they have been used. It is possible that their so joining the French may lead to the desertion of others. I have not yet heard of any desertion of Arabs and Moors, but no ill feeling heretofore. Since I wrote the orders providing for the eventuality referred to, I have heard that the iron-clad "La Galissoniere" is expected at once, and a Rear-Admiral, I presume Admiral Conrad; also five battalions of troops and two battalions of artillery are on their way. So soon as this force arrives I presume it will be sufficient to fully occupy all the Arabs, and to keep those who are engaged in their present enterprise together.

5 The Captains of the "Iris" and "Condor" are desired, should anything of importance occur on their stations, to report direct to the Commander-in-Chief and Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," Sfax, July 9, 1881.

WITH reference to the telegram asking when can "Condor" be spared to go to Tunis, and that "Iris" has gone there under my orders, I should have much wished "Condor" and "Iris" to change places for a short time.

2 Tunis is quite safe for the time, and there is ample force there available for safety. On this coast there are many who are more exposed to danger.

3 Should the French be repulsed in a first attack, it may give a great impulse to the Arab and Moor rising, and that would first be felt on the east coast; therefore, I am anxious that the large ship should be on this side, where there are many that would not be safe.

4 It is clear, wherever the French appear on this coast, the natives will resent their presence, and others suffer.

5. However, "Maria Pia," with whose Captain, Conti, Commander Egerton is well acquainted, and with whom he is sure to work in harmony, if necessary in the cause of humanity, is at Monastier, and I do not therefore propose at this moment to change the stations of the ships unless "Maria Pia" leaves the station, or I see further reason.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON

P.S.—Captain Egerton informs me from Suse that many Jews have left the place, and rumour says, if the French appeared there, there might be a rising amongst the Moors, but they would not allow the Arabs to enter the town.

He also states that telegraphic communication is complete from Suse to Tunis, and answers should be received from London within twenty-four hours.

G. T

No. 76

Mr. Roade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 76.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, July 18, 1881.

A BODY of from 800 to 1,000 mounted Arabs arrived from the interior yesterday, and stole from the interior of the Bardo 1,500 of the Bey's camels, which they immediately made off with. Although this occurred in the middle of the day, no effort was made to follow or intercept the marauders.

The whole country, except the districts of the sea-coast is in a state of anarchy.

No. 77.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 686A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 19, 1881.

THE French Charge d'Affaires at the Foreign Office has just received the substance of a despatch which will be forwarded to Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire in reply to the communication by Lord Lyons on the subject of the Tripoli of the 15th inst.

Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire considers it very desirable that in view of the interest which this matter has created in England with regard to Egypt, some clear and definite statement should be made as to the actual state of affairs. At his recent interview with Lord Lyons he stated that at the present moment there could be no possible cause for any feeling in England upon the subject, as the future would show. He had pointed out that the objects of the expedition to Tunis were now clearly understood by the European Powers, who had received with perfect confidence the assurances which had been given by France, and the bare supposition that after having disclaimed the annexation or conquest of Tunis they should entertain any such idea in regard to Tripoli exceeded all reasonable belief.

Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire could not regard seriously the schemes attributed to France by certain newspapers which already saw in France not only the mistress of Tripoli, but of Egypt, with an influence extending as far as Syria and the Red Sea. He was, however, able to give them the most formal denial. From the frontier of Tunis to that of Egypt there were not less than 17 or 18 degrees of longitude, the coast was almost uninhabited, and the country little better than a desert. With such facts before them, none but the declared enemies of France could desire to see her embarked in such extravagant adventures.

France had no designs whatever upon Tripoli, and only desired that there should be no outbreak of massacre and anarchy on the Regency which might spread to Tunis, and even reach Algeria. It was with this object, and in the most amicable spirit, that communications had taken place with the Turkish Government, who had been invited in view of these apprehensions to take such steps as might seem to them best calculated to avert a danger perhaps equally threatening to both countries; and the recent explanations exchanged with the Porte on this subject had furnished a proof of the friendly sentiments existing between the two Governments.

Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire added that the submission of Sfax and the occupation of Gabes ensured the tranquillity of those districts, while the presence of an imposing naval force at Gabes and Djirra would prevent any further hostile incursions into Tunisian territory.

Count d'Aunay was authorized to submit the considerations, which had already been communicated to Lord Lyons, to Her Majesty's Government, and to assure them of the high value attached by the French Government to the complete understanding which so happily existed with regard to Egypt. Her Majesty's Government must believe that the Government of the French Republic would regret anything which could disturb a harmony so essential to the peace of the world and the interests of civilization.

Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire concluded by expressing the hope that this despatch would enable Her Majesty's Government to dispel any apprehension which might have arisen, however devoid of foundation.

I shall take an early opportunity of conversing with Mr. Aunay on the subject of this communication.

In the event of your authorizing Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to let Her Majesty's Government know the substance of the above, I shall be glad to have a copy of the communication forwarded to the French Government on all matters which may be of interest to the good relations existing between the two countries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 78.

Mr. Wingfield to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 20.)

My Lord,

Downing Street, July 19, 1881.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 11th instant respecting the arrival in Malta of refugees from Sfax, I am directed by Mr. Kimberley to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Granville, copy of a despatch from the Governor of the island, showing the steps which have been taken in the matter of rendering assistance to the fugitives.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Governor Sir A. Barton to the Earl of Kimberley.

My Lord,

Palace, Valletta, July 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to state that I sent two telegraphic despatches to your Lordship on the 5th and 7th instant respectively, in the following words:—

(No. 1.)

"One hundred and thirty-five passengers, of whom 120 British subjects, arrived last night from Sfax to save their lives from Arabs. One Maltese massacred. More have left in another vessel."

(No. 2.)

"Other 370 passengers, including about 200 foreign subjects almost all utterly destitute arrived this morning from Sfax by French steamer."

2. Immediately on the arrival of these refugees I gave orders that a portion of the Lazaretto building be fitted for receiving such of them as were in need of assistance, and at the same time I caused steps to be taken in order to prevent any of the foreign subjects among them from becoming a permanent burden to this Colony.

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3. The French Consul in this island has undertaken to afford relief to, and procure passage for, the French and Tunisian refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON.

No. 79.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 74.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 12, 1881.

THE Meleki Court have served on Mr. Levi a summons to appear before them. Levi having gone to Suse, proceedings are deferred for a few days. A ~~few~~ ^{few} ~~minutes~~ ^{minutes} (which I have myself seen of their incompetency to try the Fath case and their opinion that it pertained wholly and solely to the Hanafi Court, was signed by them last year. I believe this certificate is in Levi's possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 80.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 21.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 75.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 11, 1881.

With reference to the subject of your Lordship's telegram No. 75, I have been no direct communication between M. Roustan and M. Reade. It is true that for the sale of a valuable estate belonging to Roustan has been placed at the disposal of some wealthy bankers at Paris, and that M. Roustan and his family and telegrams which have passed on the subject, it appears that the estate was actually agreed upon, which is a fact which Roustan has not denied. The negotiation was concluded at Paris, and the sale of the estate is a consequence of the alleged interference of M. Roustan. On receiving from M. Roustan, one of the purchasers at Paris, a letter in response to Roustan's letter, M. Roustan, Delegate of the French Government at Tunis, appears to have replied that he states the substance of M. Roustan's letter, and that the purchasers would do well to refer the matter to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Roustan, on the other hand, has asserted in the most positive manner that the above allegation is entirely without foundation, and that he has never in any way interfered in the transaction referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 81.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 21.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 18, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Commander Egerton, of Her Majesty's ship "Condor," dated 18th July, 1881.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Commander Egerton to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Condor," Suse, July 18, 1881, 7:30 p.m.

FROM "Monarch," 16th —

French have taken Sfax, killed and wounded, sixty.

No. 82.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 302.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 21, 1881.

THE Italian Ambassador read to me on the 28th instant a telegram received from Tripoli reporting that the troops there were being exercised daily, and that great excitement prevailed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, July 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 30th ultimo, pointing out an error which has crept into a telegram from M. Caroli, communicated by your Excellency, and published in the "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Tunis (No. 6, 1881)," and I beg leave to assure you that your letter shall be inserted in the next series of papers relative to Tunis laid before Parliament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

The Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord,

Temple, July 20, 1881.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's letter of the 27th June last stating that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Tunis reported that a concession had been granted to a French subject, named Daninos, for a bank or pawning establishment, with exclusive privileges for a term of fifty years. That Mr. Reade stated that those who supported the concession chiefly in the fact that M. Daninos was guaranteed against competition, and that no concession would have been necessary had the business been open to all the world. That the concession appeared to him to be opposed to Articles V and XVI of the Treaty between the Governments of Great Britain and Tunis of the 19th July, 1875. Your Lordship drew our attention to Article IX of the same Treaty respecting the abolition of all monopolies of agricultural produce, and of any other trade whatsoever, save as it may be excepted. Your Lordship requested that we would favour you with our opinion as to whether the provisions of the Treaty precluded the granting by the Tunisian Government of the concession to M. Daninos referred to by Mr. Reade. A copy of the Treaty was inclosed with your Lordship's letter.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we have the honour to report—

That, in our opinion, the 9th clause of the Treaty cannot be relied on as opposed to the concession made to M. Daninos. This clause is limited to monopolies of a particular description and would not extend to a bank or pawning establishment.

But the 5th, 16th and 17th clauses appear to preclude the granting by the Tunisian Government of a concession, with exclusive privileges, to M. Daninos. This opinion, however, is expressed with a very imperfect knowledge of the exact nature of that concession.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY JAMES.
FARMER HERSCHELL.
J. PARKER DEANE.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22)

(No. 701.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 21, 1881.

I CALLED upon M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire yesterday afternoon.

His Excellency informed me that, after his conversation with Lord Lyons on the 17th instant, the details of which are reported in his Lordship's despatch No. 689 of that day, he had written and transmitted by the evening mail a despatch to Count d'Aunay, the French Chargé d'Affaires in London, containing such explicit statements of the views of his Government with regard to Tripoli as, he was sure, would be satisfactory to that of Her Majesty. I understood from his Excellency that the substance of this despatch has already been communicated to your Lordship by Count d'Aunay.

His Excellency, at some length, went over much the same ground as he did with Lord Lyons on the 17th, and he utterly repudiated any intention on the part of the French Government of invading Tripoli.

I observed that, whilst putting implicit faith in this assurance on the part of his Excellency, I might venture to point out that there was a certain danger, if military operations were undertaken near the frontier, of the troops being drawn little by little across that frontier, when grave complications, even of a European nature, might ensue.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire at once announced that he had foreseen this, and had mentioned it in the Council of Ministers, when the Minister of War was present; and he repeated, with much emphasis, the assurance that on no account would the French troops be allowed to cross the frontier of Tripoli.

I also adverted to the incompatibility of M. Roustan's double capacity of French Representative and organ of the Tunisian Government in communicating with the Representatives of Foreign Powers.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, in his answer, referred to his conversation with Lord Lyons, as reported in his Lordship's despatch No. 645 of the 4th instant, and his language leads me to believe that he has it in contemplation to appoint a French Consul at Tunis. Indeed, he even mentioned the name of a person who might be chosen to fill the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS

No. 86.

The Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord,

Temple, July 21, 1881.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Mr. Lister's letter of the 18th instant, stating that he was directed to transmit to us the accompanying *note verbale*, which was communicated by the Italian Ambassador on the 12th instant, and which contained observations on the consequences of the Treaty of the 12th May, 1881, between France and the Bey of Tunis, and on the Bey's Decree of the 8th June, 1881; and Mr. Lister was to request that we would take that paper into our consideration, together with the correspondence upon the Enfidu case which was submitted to us on the 4th instant.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we have the honour to report—

That your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd June to Lord Lyons has anticipated the greater part of the contents of this *note verbale*, which does not appear to us to call for any special observation.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY JAMES
FARRER HERSCHIELL.
J PARKER DEANE.

No. 87.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 281.)
(Telegraphic)

Foreign Office, July 22, 1881, 4 P.M.

SEE yesterday's "Times," p. 5, under the heading "Tunis, July 20," statement quoted from Bey's "Gazette," made by Cadis of the Meliky Court, declaring Mr. Levy has no right of pre-emption, and French Company rightful owners of estate.

Call M. B. St. Hilaire's attention to this, and ask for information as to present position of the case.

No. 88.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 2)

My Lord,

Tripoli, Barbary, July 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here, on the 9th instant, of a Turkish ship of war with six Krupp guns of heavy calibre for the town fortifications, a supply of small arms and ammunition, and 150 artillerymen, and on the 11th instant of the Turkish iron-clad "Mukadem Hair" from Crete and Benghazi, at which latter place she landed some troops, closely followed from Suda Bay to this port by the French corvette "Voltigeur."

Small bodies of Turkish troops have lately been stationed at Ghadames, Naloot, and Zuzra, near the western confines of this province, to watch the Tunisian frontier, and prevent any assemblage of Arabs there.

The new Vah has taken measures to maintain order in the country, and has acted with promptness and energy on many occasions in repressing any exhibition of hostility towards the French or other Europeans, but the bad feeling against the French amongst the natives is daily increasing, and great interest and anxiety is felt by them as to what is passing in the Regency of Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY

No. 89.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 712.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 24, 1881.

I HAD the honour yesterday to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 689A of the 19th instant, giving the substance of a despatch from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Count d'Aunay respecting Tripoli, as communicated by the Count to your Lordship on the 19th instant.

I informed M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon that your Lordship would take an early opportunity of conversing with M. d'Aunay on the subject of his communication; and I added that I was in the meanwhile authorized by your Lordship to say that Her Majesty's Government regard it as quite satisfactory, and that, in the words of your Lordship's despatch, it showed the advantage of perfectly frank communication between the two Governments on all matters which might directly or indirectly affect the good relations happily existing between the two countries.

I then ventured to place your Lordship's despatch in his Excellency's hands, requesting him to read the report therein made of his despatch to Count d'Aunay, so that there might be no mistake as to its correctness.

His Excellency, after going through the report attentively, said that it reproduced in a remarkably accurate manner his own communication, and in confirmation of this he sent for and read to me his own draft to Count d'Aunay.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire added a few words expressive of his satisfaction at the understanding thus arrived at between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by General Menabrea, July 25, 1881.

LES derniers rapports que le Gouvernement du Roi a reçu du Consul d'Italie à Tripoli et dont il a communiqué, par dépêche du 19 Juillet courant, un extrait à l'Ambassade Royale, contiennent les informations suivantes. —

Une frégate cuirassée Française, "La Galissonnière," portant douze canons et ayant à bord un Amiral et 405 hommes d'équipage, est arrivée en rade de Tripoli le 7 de ce mois. Elle reprit le large le lendemain, se dirigeant, à ce que l'on croit, sur Sfax, sans que l'Amiral eût mis pied à terre pour la visite d'usage. Le 9 Juillet arriva le transport Ottoman "Medjidia" ayant à bord 150 soldats et portant des canons de guerre et douze canons Krupp pour la place de Tripoli. Un autre navire de guerre cuirassé Ottoman, "Cader Har" avec dix canons et 220 hommes d'équipage, suivit le 11. En même temps entre en rade la corvette Française "Voligeur," portant sept canons et 115 hommes.

Les événements de Tunis ont leur contre-coup à Tripoli, où la qualité de Français expose parfois à des dangers.

On a reçu à la frontière Tunisienne la nouvelle d'une rencontre entre la garnison Ottomane et les "Vargumi," tribu Tunisienne qui a l'habitude de faire des incursions et de commettre des pillages sur le territoire de Tripoli.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received July 2, 3 40 P.M.)

(No. 398.)

Dear Sir,

Constantinople, July 2, 1881.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of War have informed me that there are scarcely 2,500 Turkish troops in Tripoli; and that the Government do not propose to raise this force to more than 6,000 or 7,000 men with a view to the maintenance of public tranquillity and of keeping in order an unruly Arab population on the western frontier of the province. They contend that it would be most unreasonable for France to take umbrage at these necessary precautions.

The Ministers desire me to consider this information as confidential and unofficial.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26)

(Extender of Telegram No. 77.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 17, 1881.

SFAK was taken by assault and occupied by French troops yesterday, after what is reported to have been a serious resistance. The Bey's authority has been re-established at Sfax.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 78.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 18, 1881.

MOUNTED Arabs from some of the inland districts arrived, yesterday, in considerable force (estimated variously at from 700 to 1,000), and effected a razzia in the vicinity of the Bardo, carrying away 1,500 of the Bey's camels. No measures have been taken by the authorities for following or intercepting the marauders, notwithstanding the fact that the occurrence took place in the middle of the day.

Except in the neighbourhood of the sea-coast, the whole country appears to be in a condition of anarchy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 26.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 25, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram sent from the Admiralty to the Senior Naval Officer at Malta, dated this day, and directing the return of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" to Sfax.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 94.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to the Senior Naval Officer at Malta.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, July 25, 1881.

"MONARCH" to return Sfax when finished coaling, and be guided by circumstances to her own future station and disposal of the ship under her orders.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 399.)

Telegraphic.

Foreign Office, July 26, 1881.

THE dispatch of which I enclose the copy to you to-day in my telegram No. 398 is the copy of the correspondence respecting the "Monarch" which was received at the 12th instant, and communications were received from the Admiralty on the 15th. It is to be noted that they could not regard French interference in Tripoli as a matter of proceedings in Tunis, and French Government have given satisfactory assurance of having no intentions upon Tripoli.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26, 3 15 P.M.)

(No. 62.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, July 26, 1881, 12 45 P.M.

THE "Journal Officiel" of to-day contains a speech of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in which the following passage occurs with respect to his communication to Her Majesty's Government at Tripoli.

"J'ai eu l'honneur de lire au Sénat, au sujet de la Tripolitaine, et en raison des circonstances que ces puissances ne valent pas à se voir, par conséquent, quelques-uns de nos amis du Gouvernement Français, et ainsi de la communication j'ai pu pour exprimer une pensée que ces puissances ne valent pas à se voir. J'ai dit que j'avais bien vu la pensée que ces puissances ne valent pas à se voir, et qu'une aventure aussi extraordinaire que celle-ci ne pouvait être suivie d'une telle attitude que par ses conclusions les plus éclairées."

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26, 4 P.M.)

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, July 26, 1881, 2 30 P.M.

THE "JOURNAL OFFICIEL" at Constantinople telegraphed yesterday that he had seen both French Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and warned them of the danger of dispatching more troops to Tripoli, and that they both replied that there was any such intention.

(Secret) French Chargé d'Affaires hints that Sultan may have given orders independently, but hopes means may be found of changing any such determination on the part of His Majesty.

No. 98.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 395.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 26, 1881, 3.45 p.m.

ACT upon following, which is substance of despatch to you dated to-day: Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency should speak to Assim Pasha, and, if an opportunity should present itself, also to Sultan, in sense of my language to Musurus Pasha as recorded in my despatch No. 484 of the 12th instant. Her Majesty's Government have intimated to French Government that Tripoli must be deemed to stand in different position from Tunis. French Government have admitted this, and acknowledge that dominion of Sultan over Tripoli is indisputable. The responsibility of the Porte for maintenance of order on the frontier becomes, therefore, all the more serious. It might lead to very grave consequences if Porte supposed it might look for support to Great Britain in event of difficulties arising from Arabs in Tripoli being encouraged by the imprudence of any Turkish authorities to join Tunisian tribes in attacking the French. Your Excellency should therefore clearly explain to the Porte that Her Majesty's Government have not rests which make it their policy that Tripoli should not be brought under the influence of another Power, and they would desire to see the status quo there maintained, and they likewise desire that the territory of the Sultan should not be subject to unjust aggression, but they are not prepared to shield the Turkish Government from the consequences of the disregard of the friendly advice tendered by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 99.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 523.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 26, 1881.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence with Her Majesty's Embassy at Paris,* showing the communications which have passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of France respecting Tripoli.

In my despatch No. 484 of the 12th instant I informed your Excellency that I had repeated to Musurus Pasha the advice I had already given, that the Porte should exercise great prudence in not giving causes of plausible complaint to the French Government.

It is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that your Excellency should speak in the same sense to Assim Pasha, and, if a fitting opportunity should present itself, also to His Majesty the Sultan.

It will be seen from this correspondence, which is about to be presented to Parliament, that Her Majesty's Government have intimated to the Government of France that Tripoli must be deemed to stand in a different position from Tunis, and the French Government have not hesitated to admit this, and to acknowledge that the dominion of the Sultan over Tripoli is indisputable. Under these circumstances, the responsibility of the Porte for the maintenance of order on the frontier, where its authority is unchallenged, becomes all the more serious.

It might lead to very grave consequences if the Porte were to misapprehend the intention of the communications in this correspondence, and were to suppose that it might look for support to Great Britain in the event of difficulties arising from the Arabs in Tripoli being encouraged by the imprudence of any Turkish authorities to join with the Tunisian tribes in attacking the French.

It would be well, therefore, that your Excellency should clearly explain to the Porte that Her Majesty's Government have interests which make it their policy that Tripoli should not be brought under the influence of another Power, and they would accordingly desire to see the status quo there maintained, and they likewise desire that the territory of the Sultan should not be subject to unjust aggression, but they are not prepared to shield the Turkish Government from the consequences which they may bring upon themselves.

* Nos. 59, 68, and 77.

should the friendly advice which Her Majesty's Government have tendered be disregarded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 720.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 26, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch to Sir A. P. No. 20, C. 1, dated at the 15th instant, inclosing copy of a letter from the Bey of Tunis to the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople, dated 12th May, 1881, by which the Bey of Tunis, in reply to the French Consul at Tunis, dated 12th May, 1881, expressed his desire to see the status quo there maintained, and he likewise desired that the territory of the Sultan should not be subject to unjust aggression, but they are not prepared to shield the Turkish Government from the consequences of the disregard of the friendly advice tendered by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 101.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 717.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch received from Her Majesty's Consul at Marseilles reporting further movements of French troops in connection with the operations in Algeria and Tunis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Consul Mark to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Marseilles, July 22, 1881.

WITHIN the last ten days more troops have been embarked for Tunis and Algeria. Last week 2,500 men left this port in packet-ships for Oran and on Thursday last 3,000 men left Toulon for Tunis. The French troops are now at Toulon, a brigade of course of formation at that port, and some field artillery is likewise expected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. W. MARK.

No. 102.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 721.)

Sir,

Paris, July 26, 1881.

ON THURSDAY, when the Budget of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs came on for discussion in the Senate, the Duc de Broglie made some observations on the Convention of the 12th May, which had inaugurated a new era in the relations between France and Italy, he expressed his fears that the Convention might lead to a feeling in Italy, England and Spain that France was not to be trusted. He asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether it was not necessary to defend Algeria, it would be necessary to consider the possibility of a war against the Bey of Tunis, but he said that he did not think it was necessary to do this, and he developed the reasons which led him to this opinion, and this expedition.

necessary. He repeated that the Government wished for neither conquest nor annexation, and he hoped that the Treaty of Guarantee would introduce into Tunis the benefits of a superior civilization in order to insure the security of the Algerian Colony.

His Excellency then made a declaration with regard to Tripoli, the text of which I have already had the honour to forward to your Lordship by telegraph, and which repudiates as the invention of none but enemies the idea of invading that country. He prefaced this declaration by a few words in which he stated that he did everything in the world to live on excellent terms with Her Majesty's Government, and that, so far, he believed he had succeeded in doing so.

With regard to Turkey, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that an invasion of Tripoli would be an invasion of the Turkish Empire, and the Government of France would not allow that. He added that he had warned the Porte that Turkey was not to be invaded, and that if Tripoli took fire the fire would spread to Tunis and thence to Algeria. He allowed that the Porte had received his views with the most perfect cordiality, so that the fears expressed by the Duke of Boule were unfounded.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the authentic report of the proceedings, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of today.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 103.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27)

(No. 725. Extender.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 26, 1881.

I SAID to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to-day that I could not help feeling a little disturbed at the reports I had heard of an intention of the Porte to send Turkish troops to Tripoli.

His Excellency informed me that he had more than once instructed Count Montholon, the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to point out to the Porte the danger of such a proceeding, and that yesterday he had received a telegram from the Count, stating that he had executed these instructions both to Said Pasha and Assim Pasha, but that they had both denied that there was any such intention on the part of the Porte.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire then called my attention to an insertion in the "Agence Havas," of an extract from the "Turque," being an answer to a note published on the 17th instant by that agency, which declared that all misunderstanding had disappeared between the two Governments. The "Turque" was happy to learn this, and said that no less importance would be attached to the passage where it said clearly that France has no ambitious views on Tripoli. It wound up by an expression of the desire of Turkey, above all, to maintain the cordial and intimate relations which have united the two countries for centuries.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said in conclusion that he now felt much less uneasy with regard to Turkish movements in Tripoli, and more satisfied with the state of the relations between France and the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 104.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27)

(No. 726. Secret.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 26, 1881.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I learnt secretly from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that Count Montholon had hinted that the Sultan might have given orders for the dispatch of further troops to Tripoli, and possibly of his Ministers, but that, if this were so, he had hopes that means might be found to change such a determination on the part of His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 105.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28.)

(No. 64. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, July 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 21 of the 12th instant, transmitting, for my information, copy of a letter from M. Aflalo, reporting the language held to his brother by the Sultan of Morocco in interviews he had with His Majesty.

As M. Aflalo had brought letters of recommendation to me, and I had taken an active part in the English expedition to the south-eastern districts of Morocco in 1878 and 1879, and as he informed me by despatching the Sultan to order a settlement of his affairs and government who were Moorish subjects, I took the opportunity of giving him a letter of introduction to the French Consul at Tangier, M. de Vernouille, as to the Sultan's views on the Arab question, and he very much surprised me to find that the Sultan had granted several interviews to me, and that he is so much interested in the subject of the "Arab question" as to have received me several times at the residence of the Sultan at Marrakech.

The Sultan was very much interested in events passing both at Paris and Algeria, and I am not surprised that he should have expressed his apprehensions regarding the designs of the French Government on that of the Government at Paris may be desirous of avoiding the complications at the present time, when they require the presence of large forces both in Algeria and Tunis, yet it is to be expected if French troops are sent to Morocco, the Moorish Chiefs of Ouled Sheikh, on the south-eastern frontier, and others, that these Chiefs will retire into the Moorish territory and the Sultan will be obliged to declare a holy war against the French, a task to pursue Arab warriors, who will flee into the desert or mountain fastnesses, where no enemy would venture to follow them.

Such an event is not improbable, and might compel the Sultan to declare a holy war against the French or to seek for a Protectorate.

I have not received any communication such as M. Aflalo alludes to from Cid Mohammed Bargash or other officer at the Court.

I do not believe that M. Aflalo is correct in saying that the Sultan made use of the word "Protectorate," or rather the synonymous term in Arabic, but I can understand that His Majesty expressed an anxious desire that the British Government should be prepared to take active steps in preventing this country being converted, as Tunis will be, into a French province.

Since my return to Tangier, M. de Vernouille, the French Consul, has been in communication with good friends of mine, and on occasion has been in communication with the turbulent Chiefs on the frontier, but he expressed his dissatisfaction that His Majesty had allowed Cid Solymann, a Chief of Ouled Sheikh (who had been expelled in 1870 by the Sultan of Wazan) to come to the frontier and to occupy with some of his followers a tract of fertile land in the district of the Ouled Sheikh, and to give them a licence for which he has been very active in making arrangements upon the Algerian territory.

I remarked to M. de Vernouille that the Sultan had ordered Cid Solymann to be expelled. His Majesty would have been glad if he had been expelled, but the French Consul, having heard of the expulsion of Cid Solymann, and that the Sultan had ordered his brother, Cid Kadda, to be expelled, and that he had seen reports in some French newspapers that the Sultan had ordered the partition of this country. He added that neither Cid Solymann nor Cid Kadda were the sons of these Chiefs, but had been allowed from the reports of the Government on such a subject, and he declared that he was.

I observed that it also appeared to me a very ridiculous rumour, as I thought the French and Spanish Governments were too desirous of maintaining the peace of the world to allow of such a proceeding.

In the course of confidential conversation with M. Desdado I alluded to the language he had used to me, and M. Desdado said he had heard that the French Ambassador at Madrid had "ventured" the idea of a French expedition to Morocco with various persons at Madrid, though he had not heard that such a proposition, even of a confidential character, had been made to his Government.

M. Diodado observed that even if such a proposition was made, and was backed by other Great Powers, he considered that it would be most impolitic for Spain to unite herself with France in such an enterprise, for it would entail financial embarrassments without any material profit to Spain, unless the Mohammedan population was exterminated, and that finally France might find a pretext for wresting from Spain any territory that may have been obtained by their joint action.

In private letters I have recently addressed the Vizir and Sid Mohammed—who is now with the Sultan—I urged that the Moorish Government should do all in their power to prevent the tribes in Morocco from joining Bou Amena, or other Makhets and Chleufs in their aggressions and inroads on the Algerine territory, and I pointed out the danger that will be incurred if these Chiefs retreat into Moorish territory before the French forces, and that the Commander of the latter crossed the frontier with the view of chastising them. I intimated also, in guarded language, and in a confidential form, that the Sultan should be careful not to enter into any secret engagement with the French which might compromise his position as an independent Sovereign, and entitle the French hereafter to interfere in the Government of this country.

The Sultan had bailed with his army in the rebel district of Zair, about a day's journey from Rabat. I do not expect any reply from the Court until next month.

(signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 106

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Crunville.—(Received July 29, 1825 P.M.)

(No. 340, Very Confidential)

(Telegraphic)

Constantinople, July 29, 1891, 10:40 A.M.

REFERENCE to your telegram No. 398 of yesterday

I learn from Secret Agent, who is often correct in his information, that the Porte had intended to send 24 battalions to Tripoli, but have sent only 16. The other 12 battalions have been detained here in consequence of the representations of French Embassy. He further says that Council have decided that local authorities shall refuse to give passes who may cross the frontier when pursued by French troops, pending reference to Porte. Government is alive to danger of giving provocation to France.

No. 117.

E Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30.)

E
(No. 729.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 29, 1881.

ON my being received this morning by M. Barthélemy St Hilaire, his Excellency's
once expressed to me the sincere pleasure he had felt on reading your Lordship's despatch
of the 26th instant to the Earl of Darnley, which was "N^o. 1" of the "Globe"
respecting the Affairs of Tripoli" (No. 1) just recd.

The Excellency said that he looked upon the despatch as a prudent advice which the French Government would have sent to the Porte by England, and he felt that it would have great value. He was doubly gratified because the despatch had been written spontaneously, without any communication between the Governments of our two countries.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire added that it was his intention to address a despatch to the French Representative in London, instructing him to thank your Lordship for this friendly act of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 108

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30.)

E
(No. 730.)

My lord,

J. S. G. J. H. J. H. J. H. J. H.

3. BARTHELEMY ST. HILAIRE informed me this morning that the Turkish Ambassador, Essad Pasha, had called upon him on the 27th instant, and had spoken to him on the question of the alleged intention of the Porte to despatch further troops to Thess.

Esad Pasha had, in the first place, wanted to say good-bye to his native land, and in the second place, to see the friends he had made in the army. But, in order to preserve tranquillity in such a vast extent of territory, and that they would be used for that purpose alone.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me that in the course of the conversation he had alluded to the spirit of hostility which had been manifested towards his countrymen and towards persons under French protection in Tripoli, and also to what seemed a purpose of display of military in the town. He said, however, to Essad Pasha, as he referred to me, that he was happy to accept the assurances which that Ambassador gave him in the name of the Porte, and that he was glad to look upon them as a proof of the friendly relations which existed between France and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS

No. 109.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received July 30.)

E

(No. 731, Secret.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 20, 1881

By the Turkish Ambassador, Esad

some warmth of the proceedings of the French in Africa,

the French would have no right to expect that such measures were taken for the protection of things in Tunis was of course only to be expected, respected and obeyed by the Arabs, because he was the Representative of the Sultan, but since he had become the *protégé* of France, not even his soldiers would fight when he ordered them to do so. If the French Government were to take over the administration of the country, it would be foreign to such a proceeding.

[illegible]

1st instant, in the "Gazette" of the 21st instant, there was an article headed "A Constantinople," which spoke of the Sultan as "Imperial abut," and the "République Française" of the same date contained what really resembled an Ultimatum to the Sultan, whereas the 1st of the 21st instant, a pamphlet at the frontier of Europe, of which he was the principal instigator, was not quickly and completely stopped. France was determined not to admit that the 1st of the 21st instant was any opposition to the wishes of France to remain at peace, means would be found to bring His Majesty to his senses.

I should also mention that M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me that the French Agent at Sfax had reported three emissaries, who were certainly Turks, had been seen in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 110.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 30.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 29, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of Earl Granville, copy of a letter from Captain Tryon of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 22nd instant, No. 73, relative to his proceedings at Sfax, and stating that the town being held by the French troops in force, and order being sufficiently restored, M. Leonardi, the Consular Agent, had rehoisted his flag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Enclosure in No. 110.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," at Sfax, July 22, 1881.

THE town of Sfax being held by French troops in force, and having ascertained that order has been sufficiently restored, I have this day directed the Consular Agent, M. Leonardi, to rehoist his flag.

2. A number of refugees may be expected to return to-day, and it is necessary that they should have some one on the spot to refer to, to identify them, and to help them to re-enter into possession of their property, such as remain, as soon as may be.

3. The French troops occupy many of the abandoned houses, but I understand will vacate them on requisition when the owners return. This in some cases has already been done.

4. The Naval Commander-in-chief, Admiral Garnault, has placed the control of local matters about in the hands of Admiral Courd, who is considered to be the proper French Naval Officer on this coast, but Admiral Garnault particularly asked me if I met with any difficulties to come to him.

5. The Colonel, the Senior Military Officer, is in command of the town and shore, and I have hardly any staff with him, so has very much to do, and a few days must be expected to elapse before matters are in working order.

6. I have asked the Admiral if any persons were to be appointed to look after the property actually done to property, and this morning Admiral Courd has written to the Colonel in command to propose that a Commission composed of Consuls, &c., shall be appointed.

7. At Tunis I heard, and hear subsequently, that, after the Revolution, 1874, many received compensation far in excess of what was properly due. Mr. Rende tells me that reclamations to large amounts have already been sent to him; they must, I presume, have been furnished by persons who are refugees, and who necessarily are unaware at present of their losses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 111.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 30.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, July 30, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of Earl Granville, copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 12th instant, reporting his proceedings at Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Enclosure in No. 111.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," at Sfax, July 12, 1881.

THE commercial interests at Sfax at this season chiefly relate to Esparto grass and to olive oil. Before I received their Lordships' telegram desiring me to protect British interests, the condition of affairs had assumed a character so widely different from those existing when my orders were given, that I had already used some influence successfully on the matter, and the trade on the coast has not been stopped.

2. There is an English barque loading with grass here; she receives it from Gerba and the coast.

3. I am informed by our Consular Agent there are approximately 3,000 tons of grass in the town, which is sold to British subjects, there being enough to produce 4,000 tons of oil, the property of Moors, which cannot be taken away.

4. The Esparto grass is in the open to the left (proper) of the town, a part is shown in the right hand corner of the sketch attached to my journal. Some of it has been moved or rearranged by the Moors, we can see, and it is likely to shelter a number of the defenders. It is somewhat difficult to set fire to, but when once on fire, it burns fiercely. Whether it will escape destruction is extremely doubtful. Of course, it will be successful to the extent that the resistance is at an end. It affords convenient cover for armed men, and a large number of it.

5. The mass of the oil is in cemented tanks underground.

6. All refugees have had an opportunity of leaving for such ports as they desired free of cost, but some, with their all on shore, hang on in the hopes of a speedy return to their property. All are armed.

7. I am grateful to their Lordships for the confidence in my discretion they have expressed in their telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 112.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 740.)

Foreign Office, July 30, 1881.

I have this day Ambassador and Sir Charles Dike this day arrived between the two ports, and I have been informed by the Consul that the French troops have been ordered to leave the town of Sfax, and that the property of the Moors has been restored to them. I have also been informed that the French troops have been ordered to leave the town of Sfax, and that the property of the Moors has been restored to them.

I am, &c.
GRANVILLE

No. 113.

Earl Granville to Mr. Rende.

(No. 113.)

Foreign Office, July 30, 1881.

I HAVE been in communication with the Law Officers of the Crown on the subject of the Concession for a bank or pawnshop establishment, which you informed me had been granted to a French subject named Dammes, with exclusive privileges, for a term of fifty years, and which you considered to be opposed to the provisions of the Treaty between the Governments of Great Britain and Tunis of the 19th July, 1875.

The information at present in the possession of Her Majesty's Government is not sufficiently explicit as to the exact nature of the Concession to enable them to judge

Jan, &c.
GRANVILLE

I have, &c
{Signed} DUFFELIN

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

I have, &c
(Signed) G. TRYON

In conclusion, I have to observe that here, as in other places, events depend on the

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course of things taken at Sfax; but should the French attempt to land at any of these places, it will be the signal for a general insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. EGERTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 115.

STATEMENT as to the Number of Troops, &c., at Susa, Monastier, and Mehediah.

| Name of Place | French | Troops | Artillery | Infantry | Cavalry | Other |
|---------------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|---------|-------|
| Susa | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Monastier | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Mehediah | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

The above statement is given by the French authorities at Sfax, and is to be taken as correct.

(Signed) FRED. EGERTON, Commander.
"Circular," at Mehediah, July, 12, 1881.

No. 116.

Mr. Reade to Karl Grunville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 85.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to refer your Lordship to my past communication relative to the insurrection and bombardment of Sfax, and to transmit herewith some further reports on the subject from Messrs. Galea and Leonard, the Consular Representatives at Sfax and Susa.

The description which I have given of the pillage and ruin that resulted from the bombardment is borne out by the reports which have reached me from other sources, and there can be no doubt that for a long time the whole of the loss or damage which has accrued to the French troops should be held mainly accountable.

It is now a question whether the French troops should be held responsible to a considerable extent for the damage done to the property of the Arabs, inasmuch as they are now deprived of resources which it has been their duty to put together, and this, too, while living under a Government which only too readily resorts to force to oppose by force of arms the invasion of a great military Power.

Measures, I understand, are being taken to prevent further loss of property, but whether any indemnity may be hereafter forthcoming in respect of them I cannot, of course, say.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Vice-Consul Galea to Mr. Reade.

Sir,

Sfax Anchorage, July 15, 1881.

CONTINUING my reports upon the French operations at Sfax, I have the honour to state as follows:—

July 9, 1881.—At 3:30 P.M. the "Manoubia" started for Tunis, with all the Tunisian soldiers crowded on board.

The "Liguria" at midday left for Tripoli and Malta.

The "Draught" arrived from Tripoli and Gerba, and left for the coast and Tunis at 4 P.M. There were many passengers, including a large number of women and children.

I am given to understand that the new leader in Gabes is a relative of Ali-ben-

July 10.—At 11 A.M. the Italian gun-boat "Cariddi" arrived from Tunis for the purpose of seeing whether the Italian subjects were in want of any assistance.

No shots were fired.

In the evening the Bey's steamer "Ammar" arrived from Tunis.

At 11 A.M. this morning, but the insurgents have been using more explosive bales in the construction of fortifications on shore.

July 12.—This morning a Gerba captain came aboard with a report that the

Gabes. He reported that a good deal of risk was incurred by those who remained to carry goods inland, owing to their being regarded with suspicion by the

the Gabes coast. This state of things originated as follows: Not finding any other boat

at hand we engaged Rueda Velez to go to Mahres and tell the boatmen

at they should not be afraid to appear on the coast, but to be on their guard against the

break of the insurrection he landed at Sfax, and was immediately seized, as he was

suspected he was engaged in taking supplies to M. Liard, the French Consular Agent of

Gabes, who is the owner of the boat he commanded. The captain was ill-treated and ran

the risk of his life. He was liberated on the understanding that it would go very

fast if he were ever caught again in service of a suspicious character. This

appears to have spread all over the coast, and when he landed at Mahres he

water to the French. He had, in fact, four

the Arabs believe that the French

The boat is now seized at Mahres.

after this occurrence a steamer was sent down the coast

taken to prevent the French from supplies of water. If the

where the Arabs have learned to stand or poison the wells, and no boats

approach the shore to

and certain springs

July 13.—At 9 A.M. the "Gallissoniere" arrived, also a second

transport arrived at 4 P.M.

At 8 P.M. the C.G.T. "Insulaire" arrived with the mails from Europe to

the coast

At 2 P.M. the man-of-war that arrived in the morning began to throw shells into the

fortifications and town. Some twelve shots were fired, and the town did not reply.

In the evening a part of the town situated near the gate which divides the Moorish

town from the European suburb was observed to be on fire; but there was no great con-

flagration, nor did the fire last long.

And that, according to the *London Standard*, "His Majesty's ship 'Monarch' will as liberally supply the necessities of the French fleet as that the French iron-clads are as ready to assist the same."

Lice-Counsel Galea to Mr. Reader.

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

Mr Leonard to Mr Reader.

(Transition.)

I did not go into the quarter inhabited by the Moors, neither did I visit the British Consular Agency, as I found it occupied by the French. I therefore cannot go further to report for the moment on this subject.

I have, &c
(Signed) G. LEONARDI

Figure 4 in No. 116.

1 cc-Consul Gentry to Mr. Reade

The estimates formed of the Moorish losses are various, and range up to 800 men. Very few were permitted to remain wounded. The number of prisoners taken at first was also very small, but the number is increasing as the nooks and hiding-places of the town

[1268]

are being searched. The French have lost over 20 killed and 70 wounded, and both these figures are being gradually added to while the search in the town goes on. The loss on the French side was chiefly sustained in driving the Arabs and Moors from the streets of the town. At the landing comparatively little loss was sustained. In spite of the bombardment, the defences of the town remained in a tolerably fair condition, but the Moors were disheartened by their own losses, and as they had no previous experience of fighting, they did not know how properly to oppose the attack.

Our own two houses, of course, shared the same fate as the others, and were thoroughly ransacked by the pillagers, and it is necessary to say that the recovery of the left one has been delayed. The French soldiers, in their search for booty, have been very pillaged. If while they were wandering to Arabs or Moors, and if they found a tolerable general massacre, which would have been a pity.

July 18.—The *Alma* has been ordered to board the *Alma*, and the latter has sent a letter to the *Alma* to the effect that it is necessary to have a number of men, and that forty of them should come with a white flag to negotiate the terms of their submission.

The steam-ship "Marse" arrived on Sunday with 800 French soldiers having them.

Ali-ben-Hilfa's departure.

The *Alma* has been ordered to board the *Alma*, and the latter has sent a letter to the *Alma* to the effect that it is necessary to have a number of men, and that forty of them should come with a white flag to negotiate the terms of their submission.

The pillaging has been, in the Moorish quarter, very general, and still continues. On a fortnight ago, the French soldiers, in their search for booty, have been very pillaged. If while they were wandering to Arabs or Moors, and if they found a tolerable general massacre, which would have been a pity.

Not a word has been heard of the *Alma*.

Inclosure 5 in No. 116.

Vice-Consul Gula to Mr. Reade.

Sir,

I WROTE you on the 18th instant.

On the 19th we were able to visit the large mosque in the Moorish town. It was converted into a barracks, with soldiers cooking inside the building. In the Moorish town the evidences of pillaging were very sad. What had not been carried away from the shops of the bazaars was thrown out upon the street. Valuable tile-deeds, bonds, "adidas," &c., and business books were lying about, and the bazaars were full of silk and cotton and woollen stuffs. So very much littered were the bazaars in this manner that, in some places, the French set fire to the whole mass, and destroyed all that was lying about. With the Moorish law as it is, and the well-known impossibility of proving accounts upon oath or by the testimony of witnesses, a deplorable amount of ruin and confusion is bound to result from the destruction of so many documents and registers. It was painful at the same time to see fine Arab manuscripts being torn to pieces.

Owing to the great block of stores at the jetty, I found it impossible to complete cargo for the "Agnes," so I ordered her to proceed to Sfax, and the refugees, who had remained sixteen days on board of her, were, of course, obliged to remove to the different barges.

July 20.—Rais Buhostin, to whom I referred in my last report, was brought by land to Sfax, where he had to defend himself before Ali-ben-Hilfa against the charge of taking water to the French. He was sent back to Mahares, and there forwarded on to Gerba on guarantee being given that he would not return to Sfax.

This forenoon the representative Sfax Moors came on board the "Alma," and had an interview, which seems to have resulted satisfactorily. Arrangements were made for the return of their families, and for other Moors taking up their residence in the town.

On the Tuesday evening the Colonel Commandant in the town issued an order threatening with punishment all soldiers found in buildings which they had not been duly authorized to enter. But on Wednesday forenoon the pillaging of stores and shops still

continued, and the military authorities were not sufficiently accessible to allow of redress being obtained.

The representative Moors entered the European suburb and had interviews with the military authorities.

July 21.—An attempt was made to facilitate the admission of Moors into the town, but owing to the ignorance of the Moors, very few of them were able to take advantage of the invitation. Business matters made very little progress during the day.

On Wednesday evening the principal Moors went round the Moorish town calling out to all who were concealed to come out of their place of concealment and their lives would be safe. Some eighty are reported to have in this manner surrendered, and they were converted as prisoners to the men-of-war. Three houses, from which the inmates could not otherwise be dislodged, were blown up.

This evening, Thursday, we are passing the night on shore for the first time.

July 22.—A number of the representative Moors have agreed to meet those who wish to enter the town, and they have engaged only to admit respectable people who bring with them a letter of introduction from the military authorities. They are not to admit men or men of doubtful character that may be admitted. Camels appear for the first time as much needed means of transport. Moors report that they prefer life in the ruined town to the state of terrorism which exists outside in the garrets, owing to the depredations of the Arabs. Some progress is being made in the process of letting inhabitants into the town.

Having so far given my notes as they occurred to me day by day, I now proceed to give you some of the details of the capture of the town.

On Saturday morning some 200 marines of the "Alma" were the first of the French to land. At the jetty they were met by a heavy fire from the windows of the houses, &c. They went through a breach in the corner of the European suburb nearest to the jetty, and traversing the suburb they found that three gates had been shut in the gateway between the Moorish town and the suburb. They had to blow up the gates, and then, getting access thus to the Moorish town, they went along and sealed the Kasbah, the Castle, the Mosque, &c. The flag there before 8 A.M. While the Castle was thus being sealed, the French were on at several points of the shore. The burning of the European suburb of the yards gave a peculiar aspect to one part of the fight, as it rendered a large space unapproachable. The merchants who are to the south of our yard lost all their exports except a few hales, which had been taken to the beach to form barricades. The French did not extend beyond the southern limits of our yard.

On Monday Hadj Mohammed-el-Fendri, who is the Hifa (Vice-Governor) of Sfax, managed to make his escape on board the "Alma," and he reported that the Arabs were in the Moors in their gardens. Shrikh Chemem, Mohamed-es-Shah, and other influential Moors had gone off by land to Tripoli. Ali-ben-Hilfa was encamped at Agard.

After the taking of the town on Saturday a severe battle took place with the Arabs outside the town.

The following were some of the principal Arabs who died fighting.

Gasen-ben-Shironda, who was lately Hifa of the Metelit, and who was killed on the 21st.

Shrikh Chemem, who was killed on the 21st.

Mohamed-es-Shah, who was killed on the 21st.

Ali-ben-Hilfa, who was killed on the 21st.

The tribes and their Chiefs took part in the Sfax revolution as well as in the capture of the town.

The Neffet were commanded by Ali-ben-Hilfa, the Biazid by Bin Shaf-ed-Din. The tribes of the Metelit were commanded by Arloni-ben-Amor. Ouled Said only furnished about 50 horsemen. Some 240 horsemen of the Sfax came and went away on the 21st.

Thirty horsemen came from the Zlass and went off in the morning.

The Haniema furnished no men.

The French are now endeavouring to examine into the details of the property of the Moors, and to be able to verify the inventories of property. This should be done as soon as possible, as the military authorities are unable to go into details of civil administration, and property is going to wreck which might otherwise be saved.

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I believe the Colonel in command is not a capable administrator, and wanting in business capacity. Besides which he has no proper staff to assist him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. GALEA

No. 117.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 23. Secret.)

Sir, I HAVE received your despatch No. 14, Secret, of the 2nd inst. in which you state that in a confidential manner you had conveyed to the Sultan the British Government should do all in their power to prevent the tribes in Morocco from joining in aggressions and incursions on the Algerine territory, and that you had intimated that the Sultan should be careful not to enter into any secret arrangement with France compromising to his position as an independent Sovereign.

I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice you have given to the Moorish Government as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 118.

Lord Tenterden to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, August 4, 1881.

IN a despatch dated the 6th ultimo, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis forwarded a Report by Mr. Vice-Consul Galea of the occurrences in connection with the insurrection at Sfax, and a copy of a protest which he had addressed to the Bey, holding his Highness' Government responsible for any losses sustained by British subjects owing to the insufficiency of the measures taken by the local authorities for the protection of their persons and property.

I have the honour to transmit herewith Mr. Reade's despatch, and its inclosures,* and I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will report to him at your early convenience whether the protest is accompanied by any other documents, and if so, propose to address to Mr. Reade as the responsibility of a foreign Government for losses sustained in such cases, and the presenting of a protest without reference to Her Majesty's Government, as being a matter of protest.

You will observe that the protest is addressed to the Bey, and not from the subsequent bombardment by the French fleet, as to which the rights of Her Majesty's Government are reserved.

The proposed draft is founded on a Report forwarded by the Law Officers of the Crown in 1861 on certain claims of the same nature against the Government of Venezuela, a copy of which Report is also transmitted herewith.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 119.

Messrs. Perry, Hury, and Co. to Sir C. Dilke.—(Received August 6.)

Sir,

Liverpool, August 5, 1881.

REFERRING to our previous communications with regard to our affairs at Sfax, we have now to advise that we have received from our manager at that place (who has been on board ship in the roads during the last month and has been in the hands of the French forces) a full account of the state of affairs there, and that we now venture to lay a few of the facts before you, in the hope that Her Majesty's Government may be able to assist us to rescue from imminent danger such of our property as has

* No. 39. † See No. 119.
‡ Law Officers, February 25, 1861 (Venezuela).

survived the risks of the revolt and bombardment. During the shelling of the town, immediately before the assault, the reports of other merchants in immediate contiguity to our own was set on fire, but, fortunately, the wind being from the direction of our establishment, our esparto stored there was not burnt.

Our manager landed on the 17th July, the day after the assault, and, on proceeding to our establishment, which had consisted of offices, sheds, presses, &c., occupying a considerable space of ground, the whole surrounded by a high wooden palisading, he found the total area taken up by French troops, who still remain in possession of the premises; and, as they have fires for cooking all over the place, close against the esparto, it will be almost a miracle if our property escapes entire destruction. Our manager found that, excepting the esparto, all our other property, including presses, wooden buildings, carts, horses, tools, &c., and even the palisading of the inclosure, had been either destroyed or carried away. Our employees have been endeavouring to ship some of our esparto on board a steamer we sent down there, but the French have occupied the jetty for military purposes, and will not allow us to do so.

Our manager has applied to the Captain of the "Monarch" for assistance, and an appeal has been made to the French Commander to take precautions for the preservation of our property remaining undestroyed, but without avail. We therefore venture to hope that Her Majesty's Government will cause an application to be made to the French Government to deliver up to us the possession of our premises, and that we shall be indemnified for the destruction of our property, and for loss accruing to us from the occupation of our said premises by the French soldiers.

We have, &c.
(Signed) PERRY, HURY, AND CO.

No. 120.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 1, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here yesterday of a Division of the Mediterranean fleet, consisting of the following ships:—

Iron-clads,—“Colbert,” Vice-Admiral Le Moine; “Trenton,” Rear-Admiral Martin; “Friedland,” “Marengo,” “Seydlitz,” “Revanche.”
Dispatch-boats,—“Thetis,” “Dessaix.”

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 121.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 319.)

My Lord,

Rome, August 2, 1881.

THE Italian Bishop at Tunis, Mgr. Suter, is about to retire to a Capuchin monastery at Rome. He will receive the title of Bishop of Arel (Arles) in partibus infidelium. His story is referred to in my preceding despatch.

Mgr. Lavignerie, at present Archbishop of Algiers, will in future also fill the See of Tunis where he will reside, making occasional visitations to Aggers, which diocese will be under the administration of his Suffragan Bishop, Mgr. Dussette.

Large projects for the extension of Catholicism in the Regency are attributed to Mgr. Lavignerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 122.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 768.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1881.

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Tunis, inclosing Reports from the British Consular Representatives at Sfax and T

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RECEIVED
OFFICE, LONDON

The French had seven wounded by Arabs, who fired at them and escaped. The mass of the inhabitants of Minzel escaped before the French, [but were plundered by the Arabs, and the village is also said to have been burnt and sacked by them.] The officer in charge of the fort is on board one of the French ships, as is also one Attela Bizrai, a political prisoner, who was banished there from Tunis in the early days of the French occupation.

[I am told after the French evacuated the village of Minzel and the fort the Arabs, following, entered the fort and shortly afterwards the Arabs were killed. The figure given is 300, but this must be accepted with much doubt, but the fort is blown up, and by the French.

The French Mediterranean fleet went to Mehediah, leaving Admiral Conrad in the "Galassoméro" and the "Reine Blanche" and gun-vessels on the coast, also a body of troops who held a position at Gabes intrenched on the coast.

On the 30th Vice-Admiral Garnault was met at sea, steering north, far Sfax from Mehediah.

On the 28th Admiral Conrad, with two iron-clads and three gun-boats, and the "Tremblon" and a transport, were off Souk, Djerba. Some troops were on shore, they had landed that morning, and were received quietly by the inhabitants. There were no British subjects in distress on the coasts referred to.

So far as I can ascertain, the French intend to hold positions in Djerba, to put garrisons in forts between them and the coast, and to send a draught gun-boat, "Tremblon," on the inland waters (she was towed from Toulon by the transport "Oise"), and to destroy Zarzua.

General Logerot leaves this in a few days for Djerba.

The "Intrepide," having embarked a battery of light guns and about 1,400 troops, left this on Friday, the 29th, for Gabes and Djerba. We passed at sea a transport from France that did not call in here, which conveyed the troops that are there.

The total French force south of this may be put down as between 2,500 and 3,000 men.

This place remains in much the same condition. On the 28th the Caid, the Tunisian Governor, landed. The place has been swept up to some extent, but stragglers continue to pull about and help themselves to abandoned property. The difficulties are considerable. The Moors are returning to the town in numbers. The space within the walls is densely built over. There is no vacant space, and, with the exception of one spot, an esparto-grass yard, there is no space without the town for a camp on the beach side of it.

People question whether, under the circumstances, they should claim such property as remains, as they feel it a doubt as to their power to retain it.

With regard to the state of the country, from Sfax inland to Kironan and Tunis the road is not safe. The whole country is in a state of insurrection or disorder, either open or suppressed; and in cases where the French act on such positions as Gabes, and do not hold it in force, the inhabitants first suffer at their hands and then at the hands of the Arabs. Thus it is not safe for them to resist or to submit, save when there is a force sufficient to afford protection afterwards.

The towns on the sea-coast have forts, and the lesson given at Sfax will keep them quiet; and even probably a place like Sfax will prefer to accept a French guard to present conditions.

At Zazis I hear the Arabs are divided, some are for resistance, others for submission. Throughout there is no truth or loyalty to the Bey, to the French, or to themselves on the part of the inhabitants.

No. 128.

The Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane to Earl Granville.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord,

Temple, August 11, 1881.

WE were honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Lord Tenterden's letter of the 4th instant stating that, in a despatch dated the 11th July, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis forwarded a Report by Mr Vice-Consul Galea of the occurrences in connection with the insurrection at Sfax, and a copy of a protest which he had addressed to the Bey holding his Highness' Government responsible for any losses

* From native sources.

sustained by British subjects owing to the inefficiency of the measures taken by the local authorities for the protection of their persons and property.

That Lord Tenterden transmitted to Mr. Reade's despatch, and its inclosures, and he was directed by your Lordship to request that you would, at our early convenience whether the terms of the despatch and its inclosures, which your Lordship proposed to address to Mr. Reade as to the liability of a Government for losses sustained in such cases, and the presenting of a protest without reference to Her Majesty's Government, were right and proper.

That we would observe that the draft instruction referred only to losses from the insurrection, and not to the subsequent bombardment by the French fleet, as to which the rights of Her Majesty's Government were reserved.

That the proposed draft was formed on a Report furnished by the Law Officers of the Crown in 1861 on certain claims of the same nature against the Government of Venezuela, a copy of which Report was also transmitted therewith.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we have the honour to report—

That, in our opinion, the terms of the accompanying draft instruction, which your Lordship proposed to address to Mr. Reade, are in all proper

We have, &c.

(Signed)

HENRY JAMES,
FARRER HERSHELL,
J. PARKER DEANE.

No. 129.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 758.)

My Lord,

I TOOK the opportunity, when at the French Foreign Office this morning, of speaking to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 758 of the 11th inst.

I said that your Lordship had received a report from Mr. Reade and the British Consul at Tunis, dated the 11th inst., in which reference to the damage done to property previous to and during the bombardment and capture of Sfax, and I alluded to the presentation by a British firm to be indemnified for losses accruing to them from the occupation and destruction of their property at Sfax. The damage and losses, as stated in the report, attributed to the French forces. I then said that I had just received your Lordship's despatch to His Excellency.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire informed me that, in consequence of telegraphic reports from Tunis accusing the French naval and military forces of having caused damage to foreigners' property, he had written both to the Minister of War and the Minister of Marine, begging them to inquire into the truth of the charges, and to inform him of the result. The Minister of Marine had answered that, as far as the naval forces were concerned, there was no fault to be found. He said that the Minister of War had answered that he had received a preliminary Report from General Logerot, stating that, so far as his information then went, all the damage done by the Arabs, but that he would send a second Report as soon as he had investigated the matter.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire went on to say that, until he had received communication of this second Report, he could not take up the question of a Commission; and he asked how Her Majesty's Government thought that such a Commission should be constituted.

I answered that this was not mentioned, and I remarked that my information did not tally with his, as the French forces were certainly accused of having caused damage to British property. I then said that, when I returned to the Embassy, I would address a note to him on this subject, and the draft instruction, which your Lordship's despatch had the honour to transmit, for which I enclose a copy of the note.

In the absence of special instructions, I have not furnished the French Government with copies of any of the measures to your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

F. O. ADAMS

FO 403/22

BY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 129.

Mr. Adams to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, August 11, 1881.

HER Majesty's Government have received Reports from British Consular Representatives in Tunis on the subject of the events immediately preceding the bombardment of Sfax by the French fleet, the bombardment itself and the capture of the town, and also of the damage stated to have been done to property through the fire from the ships, and of subsequent pillage stated to have been the work of French troops.

Her Majesty's Government have also received from an English firm who are the owners of an establishment at Sfax a letter requesting that an application should be made to the French Government to deliver up possession of their premises, which are occupied by French troops, and claiming to be indemnified for losses to them from the occupation and from the destruction of their property.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government very desirable that a Commission should without delay be appointed to inquire into the nature and amount of the damage done through the operations of the French naval and military forces and to examine and claim for and satisfaction as may be presented by foreign subjects. I am accordingly instructed by Earl Granville to suggest to your Excellency the formation of such a Commission, if such a step should not have already been taken by the French authorities on the spot.

The importance of such an inquiry being of great importance, I am further instructed to urge your Excellency to send telegraphic instructions on the subject to the French authorities.

I have already mentioned the subject to your Excellency this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 130.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 655.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 4, 1881.

YESTERDAY I called upon the French Chargé d'Affaires for the purpose of ascertaining whether he had received from the Sultan satisfactory assurances in regard to Tunisian affairs at a recent interview to which I understood he had been admitted by His Majesty.

Count Montholon informed me that the language held by the Sultan had been especially amicable and conciliatory, and that he had expressed himself thoroughly alive to the necessity of doing everything in his power to discourage and suppress the agitation among the Arab tribes along the western frontier of Tripoli.

I informed Count Montholon that in obedience to your Lordship's instructions I had impressed upon the Porte, in as forcible language as I could command, a similar line of conduct, warning them that if they either encouraged or permitted aggression upon the part of the Mussulman tribes along the Tunisian borders, they need expect neither countenance nor sympathy from the British Government, and that the grave consequences which would be sure to ensue from a policy of intrigue and provocation would inevitably fall upon themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 131.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 760. Extender.)

My Lord,

Paris, August 12, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 768 of the 9th instant, and to my despatch No. 758 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that, having seen in the "Times" of yesterday further mention of excesses alleged to have been committed by

French troops at Sfax, I brought this matter before M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this morning, and strongly urged upon his Excellency the necessity of appointing a Commission to examine into it and into the claims for compensation without loss of time.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me that his intention was to have a Commission named for the purpose.

As the Cabinet Council was sitting, I could not go into the matter further then, but it was agreed between us that I should call upon his Excellency to-morrow, and learn what he proposed to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 132.

Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. to Sir C. Dilke.—(Received August 13.)

Sir,

Liverpool, August 12, 1881.

WE are to-day in receipt of a telegram from our manager at Sfax (and dated the 8th August), informing us that the French authorities refuse to permit us to ship the exports we have lying at Gabes (Tunis), and that, further, they insist upon retaining in their possession, for the purpose of building barracks and barricades, a great portion of the exports we have lying at Sfax. This state of matters is most serious for us, as we have now several vessels going to land at these ports, with a view to getting away our property, and we feel pressed to the utmost to enter into contracts for the sale of their cargoes. We must therefore protest against the French Government for their action in the matter, and hold them liable for the value of the exports and for the losses that may accrue to us through our inability to carry out our engagements in consequence of their arbitrary proceedings above mentioned.

We have, &c.
(Signed) PERRY, BURY, AND CO.

No. 133.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, August 13, 1881.

I RECEIVED late yesterday evening a note from French Minister for Foreign Affairs, agreeing with your Lordship that inquiries as to pillage at Sfax should take place.

Note states that the Resident of the Government at Tunis has been instructed to prepare the formation of a Commission, which will include several military and naval officers.

As there are a certain number of English in Sfax, Minister for Foreign Affairs proposes that Captain Tryon should be authorized to assist French Commissioners in their work.

(Copy by post.)

No. 134.

Mr. Roade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 9, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 85 of the 27th ultimo, relatively to the pillage and other effects of the bombardment of Sfax, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship's Office a further Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Galca, dated the 5th instant.

Of the losses which the European community has sustained, the only evidence hitherto recorded is that of Consular Agents and other residents who are all more or less victims of the pillage. They are consequently interested parties, and, although I have no reason to doubt the truth of their various statements, I am afraid the latter will not be admitted by the French authorities.

I venture, therefore, to submit to your Lordship whether it would not be advisable, under the circumstances, that an international Commission, consisting of judicial and

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Inclosure in No. 134

Vice-Consul Galea to Mr. Rende

I HAD the honour of writing you on the 29th ultimo.

I have always confirmed my letters, so that you may be able to verify whether any of my letters are missing or not. If you find any evidence of a letter being missing, I trust you will not fail to let me know, so that I may send you a copy of the missing letter. I consider the matter to be of importance, because each letter has a considerable bearing on the following ones.

On the 20th a large column of French troops went out into the country towards the west, and on the 21st a smaller column went out north on the Tada road. They reached a distance of about 4 miles out, and came back without meeting with any resistance.

A further attempt has been made to disarm the Malays, and present their slaves for admission to the Malay town. They are ordered to take their weapons to see them up and on tickets of admission are granted to them. The Malays have always been afraid to keep their arms, and they always have a few slaves of their own for their defence. They are, therefore, very reluctant to surrender their weapons, so reluctant, indeed, are they, that many of them are reported to continue to hide their arms in the country.

We hear that M. Allegro, who was the Bey's Consul at Bona, has been appointed French Resident Governor at Gabes. A Frenchman of the army has been appointed a member of a Commission that is to be formed to investigate into the damages done at Sfax. He is, of course, taking no action until the other members of the Commission arrive. We don't expect to hear more news. On Tuesday morning August two transports arrived. Her Majesty's ship "Condor" has left for Mehdes and Susa. M. Mitter, the French Vice-Consul, has taken up his residence in Sheikh Chemus's house in the Moorish town, and he proposes to live there permanently.

As an example of the manner in which the French treat property and I will give you a full account of what they have done in Meissen, Germany. But first I must say I hope it may not be thought that I exaggerate because I am personally interested in what has occurred. I simply relate the facts of the case for your information.

On the day the town was captured about 1,600 soldiers constructed barricades in our yard. They constructed barricades of esparto bales, extending them to the sea, so that a number of bales got wet at every high tide. From the yard to the town-wall they built a barricade of this kind 150 yards long. On the other side of the town other barricades of bales were erected. They threw bales down into wet ditches in order to fill them up, and as soon as the bales rotted and stank they carried them out to escape them and opened them. They make use of esparto in a variety of ways without consideration of expense. Bales are used to build town-barricades, to build up the sides of the ditches, to break up the road in front of the horses' feet, to build the town. Esparto is the bedding material employed for the troops, except when the soldiers come provided with mattresses. When opened out esparto loses nearly all its value, yet the soldiers use it freely for thatching their huts. In our yard the fencing is all being burnt up for fire-wood, although there is a quantity of olive wood and wood of wicks being about.

While twenty of our labourers are pressing loose grass, the soldiers are taking bales and opening them. Whatever is thought to be damaged is taken to a distance and burnt.

When, about a fortnight ago, I saw that it had become safe to live in the suburb. I got an order from the Colonel to take possession of our two houses, one inside the suburb, and the other at the Marina.

We were about the first householders who took possession of our houses, and slept in the one which is situated at the Marina. Mr. Leonardi soon afterwards came on shore and occupied his father's house where his office was, and which he found quite undisturbed. We then together persuaded many British subjects to reoccupy their houses and stores,

 $\text{Sto.} = \log_{10} \frac{C_1}{C_2} \times 100$

August 3 — During the night a column of French troops went out about 3 miles along the sea coast, accompanied by a steam launch. They captured fifteen Arabs and killed three. As the steam launch pulled in with the prisoners correct to the "Amia," I have not been able to obtain any information about them, or to know to what class they belong. I have met with much difficulty in getting exact details regarding this engagement.

I have heard from Gabes that up till Sunday there had been several skirmishes of more or less importance with Arabs. On Sunday last, at Minzel, the Arabs suffered a severe loss both in killed and prisoners. The latter, it is said, amounted to 250, but I have no doubt this figure is greatly exaggerated. Eight of the French were killed, including a soldier, who was found cut in pieces near the river. The body was headless. The soldiers have again withdrawn from Minzel to the Marina, where they have entrenched themselves, making barricades round about their position with esparto bales. The position of affairs at Gabes is thus: The Arabs are very numerous, and the French not prepared to advance any more extended position than that they hold with a withdrawal to the Marina.

In Sfax the French are trying to establish a regular system of collecting diars and generally to put things into order, but they find it a little easier.

They place the Mousses the first day after they have occupied the buildings they had occupied in the Moorish town. The Mousses are in the other hand, displeased because the French continue to occupy, and are very loth to leave, many of the houses and stores they hold in the suburb.

August 5. I have now received letters from my friends, sent dated 1st and August 11, giving the details of the charge there on Sunday the 1st July. At 1:30 a.m. that morning a column of French soldiers, possibly by Contrin, at the north side of Mitzel, at Mitzel. With 2 at a 1 of them, and shooting the Arabs withdrew through the enclosures of Mitzel towards the west. Firing continued from 5 a.m. till 9 a.m. The soldiers then started in the way of the site was of the town where the mosque of the French, and the loss of one killed and 14 injured, including 11 wounded (not seriously). The Arabs lost about 130 men, including 100. Wounded in track. The survivors of Mitzel, as we know, had also suffered a reverse, so that, when the survivors of Mitzel they found the village deserted and in a worse state of destruction than Sfax.

General Ly Seng, after visiting Soe, arrived at Gass on the same Sunday. He called upon the villagers, ordered to pay 20,000 baht and gave them gifts. He ordered them also to send a messenger to the village of Mizel to tell them that they should submit to the tax, otherwise he would destroy Ly-ben-nam-mut, Mizel, and Sida Lu-ba-ha.

There are 3,800 French soldiers at Gueles, but they cannot open communication with the better springs of water which are situated at 1, 2 or 3 miles of the camp. The officers and men are consequently in great straits, as they have not a sufficient supply of either proper food or water. I understand also that, owing to the great heat and heavy air of Gueles, a good deal of sickness has broken out in the camp.

On Tuesday the 2nd of September, the boat and other steamship arrived at Gabes, and the 3rd of September the boat and the "Hive" gun-boat.

Her Majesty's ship "Heron" sailed for Saxon Wednesday and proceeded up the coast to meet the "Conqueror". The only small iron-clad came back from Gabes with General Laperot who has landed here.

During the fighting at Gabes on the day of the first landing of the French the following were killed: Hadj Galem, one of the principal inhabitants of Manzel, with his two wives, and Bulbakker-bin-Aggal, with about 130 other Arabs.

I beg further to relate how the French have acted in dealing with the property of

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the esparto merchants at Gabes. They have thrown down and destroyed a considerable quantity of the fencing of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.'s yard, and they have taken down the piles of bales of esparto in order to build huts with them. Other bales they have rolled away for the purpose of constructing barricades. A bridge or causeway across the river has been made with our bales. The esparto in Sculuna's ground was all burnt, as well as the presses, and the same has occurred with Hal Hadad's esparto and presses. The esparto of Hanus Hadad remains at Larot, as also that of Juna Cerna. Hanus Hadad and Juna's presses and sheds are, however, being broken up for firewood. The camp at Gabes is included in our esparto yard and in the Government House, or Kishla, which is about 150 yards to the north of it.

I have, &c
(Signed) W. GALEA.

No. 135.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 874.)

My Lord,

Theropia, August 9, 1881.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 523 of the 26th July, I have explained to the Porte that, although Her Majesty's Government have interests which make it their policy that Tripoli should not be brought under the influence of another Power, and are consequently desirous that the territory of the Sultan should remain free from any foreign aggression, it must not be understood as being intended to countenance any attempt upon the part of the Turkish Government to occasion annoyance to the French in Tunis. On the contrary, it is desirable that the Porte should exercise great prudence in not giving cause of plausible complaint to the Government of the Republic; that were the Porte to embark in a policy of provocation and intrigue along the Tunisian frontier, it must not look for sympathy or assistance to England when overtaken by the grave consequences which would be sure to ensue, and that as the French Government has frankly acknowledged that the dominion of the Sultan over Tripoli is indisputable, the responsibility of the Porte for the maintenance of order where its authority is unchallenged becomes all the more serious.

In reply, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me, in the most positive terms, that it is the intention of the Porte to do everything in its power to suppress any attempt on the part of the Arab population within its jurisdiction to promote or prolong a state of disturbance on the western confines of Tripoli.

From my despatch No. 655 of the 4th August your Lordship will perceive that the Sultan has given similar assurances to the French Chargé d'Affaires.

Under these circumstances, I have not thought it necessary myself to moot the subject with His Majesty at a special audience.

I have, &c
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 136.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 766.)

My Lord,

Paris, August 13, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 768 of the 9th instant, and to my despatches Nos. 768 and 760 of the 11th and 12th instant respectively, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I received late yesterday evening from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire.

The note states that a Commission, including several military and naval officers, will be established to inquire into the matter of the pillage at Sfax, and it expresses the desire that, as there are a certain number of English there, Captain Tryon, of the "Monarch," should be authorized to assist the French Commissioners in the inquiry.

I have already transmitted this intelligence to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 135.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Mr. Adams.

Paris, le 12 Août, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire hier pour m'entretenir de rapports qui sont parvenus au Gouvernement Anglais concernant les dommages causés aux propriétés privées à Sfax par les faits de guerre accomplis dans cette ville. Vous avez bien voulu me communiquer à cette occasion une suggestion de Lord Granville tendant à l'ouverture d'une enquête qui serait confiée à une Commission Spéciale et qui aurait pour objet de constater les dégâts matériels et de vérifier le montant des pertes subies.

Je m'empresse de vous faire savoir que je suis d'accord avec Lord Granville sur la convenance de procéder à une enquête pour reconnaître l'étendue des dommages causés à la ville de Sfax et à ses habitants à la suite de l'insurrection récente et des mesures militaires qui ont dû être adoptées afin de la réduire. Cette constatation sera certainement utile, et sans vouloir préjuger les conséquences qu'elle pourrait comporter, je crois désirable qu'elle s'accomplisse avec toutes les garanties d'impartialité. Le Résident du Gouvernement à Tunis a été chargé de préparer la formation de la Commission à laquelle elle devra être confiée, et qui comprendra plusieurs officiers de terre et de mer. Comme, d'un côté, un certain nombre de sujets Anglais se trouvent parmi la population de Sfax, j'attacherai de l'intérêt à ce qu'un membre de nationalité Anglaise pût être adjoint à la Commission d'Enquête, et le Gouvernement de la République considérerait comme une garantie particulièrement précieuse et bien fondée l'adjonction de cette Commission que le Gouvernement de la Reine voudrait bien autoriser le Capitaine Tryon, Commandant du "Monarch," qui s'est tenu à proximité de Sfax pendant la durée des événements militaires, à prêter son concours à nos Commissaires pour l'œuvre dont ils seront chargés.

Agréer, &c
(Signé) B. ST HILAIRE.

No. 137.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by General Menabrea, August 15.

D'APRÈS un rapport de Lord Lyons en date du 23 Juin dernier (Blue Book, "Tunis, No 7, 1881"), M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de France aurait fait observer à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique "que dans la ville de Laverne, où il n'y a jamais eu de Consul Tunisien, les sujets Tunisiens viennent d'être placés sous la protection du Consul de France."

Les faits réels ne sont pas en accord avec cette allégation. Il y avait à Laverne comme dans plusieurs autres ports Italiens, des Consuls Tunisiens qui toutefois n'étaient pas munis d'un exécutif et ne pouvaient exercer leurs fonctions qu'à titre purement officieux. A la suite des événements du mois de Mai dernier, le Consul de Tunis à Laverne, M. Bergellini, et les autres Consuls Tunisiens, notifièrent aux autorités locales, soit verbalement, soit par écrit, d'avoir reçu du Gouvernement du Bey l'ordre de remettre leurs archives et le soin de la protection de leurs nationaux aux Consuls de France respectifs.

Les Préfets ayant demandé des instructions à ce sujet reçurent du Gouvernement Royal l'ordre de déclarer aux Consuls Tunisiens verbalement qu'ils ne pouvaient pas prendre acte de leurs communications, attendu qu'il n'existait pas de rapports officiels entre l'autorité locale et les dits Consuls.

A une communication récente du Consul de France à Laverne ayant pour but d'informer le Préfet qu'il avait pris la protection des résidents Tunisiens, celui-ci répondit qu'il attendait les instructions du Gouvernement Royal à ce sujet.

Londres, le 12 Août, 1881.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 340 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 16, 1881.

IN answer to an inquiry which the Italian Ambassador addressed to me to-day, I informed his Excellency that the French Government had proposed that a Commission should be appointed to inquire into the losses of property occasioned by the bombardment and capture of Sfax by the French troops, and that Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," should assist in the investigation.

I added that we intended to accept the proposal

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 139.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 51.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 16, 1881.

IN your despatch No. 80 of the 6th ult. you inform me that you have addressed to the Bey on behalf of the British subjects who have suffered by the recent bombardment at Sfax, a circular which the Government of His Majesty's Government has issued. They have incurred on account of the insult to the British flag by the bombardment for the protection of their persons and property. I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have always held the opinion that a foreign Power cannot, without the sanction of the British Government, be held responsible generally for injuries inflicted on the persons or property of British subjects resident in the country by the acts of a foreign Power, and that it is the duty of the Government, which injures the Government, to make good the loss to prevent. In such cases, foreigners cannot be held responsible for injuries inflicted on the natural-born subjects of the country. If a foreigner's property is injured by an invading army he has no right to compensation, and injury caused by a foreigner's property is subject to the same rule. If indeed the Government having the power to do so neglects or wilfully omits to restrain or at least to compensate it may be regarded as an accomplice in the act complained of, and there would be ground for supposing that in the present instance the injury complained of would not have occurred but for gross neglect on the part of the Bey's Government, although, so far as Her Majesty's Government are concerned, this does not appear to have been the case. But under any circumstances, it is less than that protests of this nature should not be presented without previous communication with Her Majesty's Government, and I have accordingly to instruct you to refer home in the first instance if it should on any future occasion appear necessary to present a similar protest.

You will understand that this despatch refers only to losses by the rising of the population, and not to any losses which may be caused by the bombardment, as to which Her Majesty's Government reserve their rights.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 140.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, August 16, 1881.

Sir,

MESSRS. PERRY AND BURY, a Liverpool firm, have addressed a letter to this Department, of which the enclosed is a copy,* alleging that a certain quantity of gunpowder for shipment to Tunis at Gabes has been detained by the French authorities, who have also taken possession of a quantity belonging to them at Sfax, and I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause inquiry to be made of Captain Tryon as to the circumstances referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

* No. 132.

Sir J. Pancefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, August 17, 1881.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you herewith, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and for any observations which they may have to offer thereupon, copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris respecting a proposal made by the French Government that Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," should be authorized to assist the French Commissioners in an inquiry which it is intended to hold in the matter of the recent pillage at Sfax.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 142

Mr. Swainson to Sir J. Pancefote.—(Received August 18.)

Sir,

Admiralty, August 17, 1881.

I AM directed by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the perusal of the Admiralty, a copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated 11th inst. respecting the conduct of affairs in the neighbourhood of Sfax, the 11th inst.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," Sfax, August 6, 1881.

THE condition of affairs here remains much the same. A French Lieutenant-Colonel is in command of the forces. The Caïd is on shore, but virtually does nothing. He seems to be a feeble old man.

2. General Logerot returned from Gabes and the south on the 5th, and on the 6th he sailed again in the "Voligeur" for Tunis. One of his staff was sent to several Consular Agents to ask questions as to the pillaging of the towns.

3. On the 6th the "Léopard" arrived from the south, and, after communicating, sailed for the north without anchoring, and the "Pique" sailed for Tunis.

4. From Sfax and the towns north of the Kerkenah banks the news is much the same. The authorities of the towns take steps to secure the safety of people within them. The country without is unsafe and in disorder.

5. On the 3rd the French fleet remained at Tunis, viz., eight vessels, under Admiral Garnault, said to be waiting orders from France.

6. With reference to paragraph 12 of my letter of the 30th July, the vessel passed was apparently the "Algeriras," with 2,000 troops, for Gabes and the south. The French force south of this may be put down at between 3,500 and 4,000 men.

7. Djerba is quiet, with a small French force at Souk. Zerzis has, it is reported, submitted.

8. The force at Gabes is probably between 3,000 and 3,400 strong. It is said to be sickly, due to the use of water in the river known to be pernicious. They are encamped near the beach. There is better water 2½ to 3 miles distant from there, but the road is not open. Large numbers of Arabs are said to be in their neighbourhood and close by. On Sunday the 31st there was some fighting. The French losses are said to be two, and nine wounded, that of the Arabs to be considerable.

9. It appears that a deputation from Mahara came here two days ago. They submitted, but asked for protection against the Arabs, and a portion of the Mitelite tribe have also given in their submission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

* No. 32.

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General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(Personnelle.)

M. le Comte,

35, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, le 17 Août, 1881.

M. MANCINI me télégraphie de Rome que la France doit proposer à mon Gouvernement de faire participer un officier Italien à l'enquête qui va s'ouvrir sur les faits de Sfax. La Commission serait composée des trois Commandants des cuirasses Anglais, Français, et Italien d'un officier supérieur Français, d'un Délégué du Gouvernement Tunisien, et d'un employé du Consulat Français.

Cela étant, M. Mancini désirerait savoir aussitôt que possible si le Gouvernement de la Reine est disposé à adhérer à cette proposition.

J'ai l'honneur d'avoir recours à l'obligeance habituelle de votre Excellence en la priant de vouloir bien me mettre à même de leur donner une réponse.

Agréer, &c.

(Signé) L. F. MENABREA.

No. 144.

M. Challeml-Lacour to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 18 Août, 1881.

MON Gouvernement se propose de nommer une Commission qui sera chargée de faire une enquête sur les événements qui ont accompagné la prise de Sfax. Cette Commission pourrait être composée de la manière suivante: les Commandants des trois cuirasses Français, Anglais, et Italien qui se trouvaient à ce moment dans ces parages; un officier supérieur nommé par le Général Logerot, un employé du Consulat Français et un Représentant du Gouvernement Tunisien. Cette Commission serait chargée de constater les faits et d'examiner les réclamations qui lui seraient présentées. Elle se réunirait aussitôt que les trois Gouvernements de France, d'Angleterre, et d'Italie se seraient mis d'accord.

Je suis chargé de faire connaître cette intention de mon Gouvernement au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté et de lui demander s'il veut bien autoriser le Commandant du cuirassé Anglais à faire partie de la Commission. Ainsi que M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire l'a fait connaître à M. Adams par sa communication du 12 Août, le Gouvernement de la République considérerait comme une garantie particulièrement précieuse du bon fonctionnement de cette Commission que le Gouvernement de la Reine autorisât le Capitaine Tryon, Commandant "du Monarch," qui s'est tenu à proximité de Sfax pendant la durée des événements militaires, à prêter son concours à nos Commissaires pour l'œuvre dont ils seront chargés.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) P. CHALLEMEL-LACOUR.

No. 145.

Mr. Rende to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, August 18, 1881.

A MALTESE was murdered at Sosa on the 14th instant by a Tripoli Arab, who endeavoured to excite the native population. The assassin was immediately arrested, and tranquillity restored.

I have just seen the Bey, who promises exemplary justice.

Boats from Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" were sent promptly to the landing-place, and, although not actively employed, their appearance produced an excellent effect.

Earl Granville to Mr. Rende.

(No. 43.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 18, 1881, 5-15 P.M.

YOUR despatch No. 87 of 9th, and previous Reports respecting bombardment and pillage of Sfax.

French Government have agreed to inquiry by Commission, to which an English Representative will be attached.

No. 147.

Earl Granville to Mr. Rende.

(No. 52. Extender.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 18, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 87 of the 9th instant, and to your previous Reports respecting the bombardment and pillage of Sfax, I inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, stating that the French Government have agreed to the appointment of a Commission to inquire into those events, and have requested that an English officer should take part in it.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 148.

Acting Consul Fadala to Earl Granville.—(Received August 19.)

(Translation.)

My Lord

Bengazi, July 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honor of informing your Excellency that the Bay of Bengazi was not long since visited by four ships of war, three Turkish and one French.

The Turkish steamers "Muvassal" and "Ulkin" are still here. The Turkish iron-clad "Moudjahid" got up its fires in the night between the 8th and 9th instant, and the French iron-clad "Volageur" was seen with sparks, and likewise then both of them left for Tripoli, in Barbary. It is said that the "Volageur" had orders to follow the Turkish iron-clad, and prevent its entrance into Tunisian waters.

The papers "Dritto" of Rome and "Risorgimento" of Malta say that the position of the Christians at Bengazi is very critical, that the Arabs have designs upon the place, and have already sacked the houses of a Maltese; that the officers of the Government General and some other Turkish authorities have left Bengazi for fear of any disturbance in the country; that troops of regulars were seen in the streets at night; that the position in a general way gets worse every day; and that the Europeans have already taken measures for their own defence.

As those publications have alarmed part of the population of the island of Malta, consisting of those who have relations, friends, and interests here, I take the first opportunity of formally denying those reports hereby, and of assuring your Excellency that they are mere inventions and falsehoods; in fact, the Maltese colony at Bengazi is living very quietly, and hitherto not a single incident has occurred to disturb peace and public order.

The truth is, that in consequence of the late Tunisian events the French are in very bad repute among, and hated by, the Mahomedan population. France is no longer considered in general as a Power friendly towards the Sultan, that slight degree of sympathy enjoyed by the English and Italians diminishes daily on the reflection that, in the opinion of the Arabs, the English and Italian Governments ought to have materially opposed the conduct of France in Tunis, and, in short, the desire is that Turkey should declare war against France. These, Excellency, are the sentiments of the Arabs in this province.

I conclude that the position of the Christians in Bengazi is not menaced in the least; nevertheless, the English colony would be very glad if the Porte, at the request of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, would make our Governor-General, Ali Keniah

Pasha, personally responsible for any aggression, provocation, or insolence which British subjects resident in Benghazi and Derna, and those who are under their protection, might suffer. I, too, would recommend this preventive measure to your Excellency, considering Tripoli to be the cradle of the fanaticism of the Mahomedan world, while unfortunately our Governor-General is pre-eminently a fanatic and an anti-Christian.

In case of any change in position I will not fail to let your Excellency know, and, in the hope that such will never occur, I have, &c.

(Signed) G. VADALA.

No. 149.

Earl Granville to M. Challemeil-Lacour

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 18th instant, stating that it is the intention of the French Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into the circumstances which attended the capture of Sfax, and to examine any claims which may be brought forward.

Your Excellency states that, besides other members of the Commission, it is proposed that the Commanders of the three French, English, and Italian iron-clads now on the spot should be included in the Commission; and your Excellency expresses the desire of the French Government that Captain Tryon, commanding Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," may be instructed to take part in the proceedings of the Commission.

I have the honour, in reply, to state that Her Majesty's Government accept the proposal for a Commission, and I have lost no time in communicating the wishes of the French Government in regard to the naval arrangements to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and I shall do myself the honour of again addressing your Excellency as soon as I hear from their Lordships on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 150.

Sir J. Pauncefoot to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 19, 1881.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 17th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a letter which his Lordship has now received from the French Ambassador at this Court announcing the intention of the French Government to name a Commission to inquire into the circumstances which attended the capture of Sfax, and to examine any claims which may be brought forward.*

In suggesting the constitution of this Commission, which would include the Commanders of the three English, French, and Italian iron-clads now in that neighbourhood, the Board of Admiralty will perceive that the French Government are, for the reasons stated in M. Challemeil-Lacour's letter, especially desirous that Captain Tryon should take part in the Commission; and as Lord Granville entirely concurs in the view of the French Government as to the appropriateness of Captain Tryon's appointment for this duty, his Lordship would be glad to hear from the Board of Admiralty, at their earliest convenience, that they have given their sanction to this arrangement, and have instructed Captain Tryon accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

* No. 144.

No. 151.

Messrs. Glynn and Son to Earl Granville.—(Received August 20.)

My Lord, *20, Water Street, Liverpool, August 19, 1881.*

INCLOSED we beg to hand you a letter we have addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in reference to services rendered by our steam-ship "Genoese" in carrying despatches from Sfax to Susa at the time of the Arab outbreak, and we shall be much obliged if your Lordship will be so good as to cause the matter to be laid before the proper authorities.

We are, &c.
(Signed) JNO. GLYNN AND SON.

No. 152.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 680. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 12, 1881.*

I AM told, though I have not yet had sufficient time to test the credulity of my informant, that the Council of Ministers have decided to keep permanently in Tripoli a corps d'armée of from 15,000 to 18,000 men. Earthworks are to be thrown up along the frontier, and barracks and other necessary buildings for the troops are to be erected. The two battalions at present at Arta are to be sent to Tripoli.

I imagine that the number of troops mentioned, "from 15,000 to 18,000," must be an exaggeration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 153.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Trentden.—(Received August 22.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, August 20, 1881.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Earl Granville that they approve of Captain Tryon serving on the proposed Commission of Inquiry into the incidents of the capture of Sfax, referred to in your letter of the 19th instant, and that in accordance with the request conveyed therein, they have this day caused telegraphic instructions to that effect to be sent to Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" at Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON.

No. 154.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 779.)

My Lord, *Paris, August 21, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Brackenbury relating to the number of troops now employed in Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Colonel Brackenbury to Mr. Adams.

Sir,

Paris, August 20, 1881.

I HAVE hitherto refrained from making any report as to the numbers of troops sent from France to Africa since the commencement of the military operations, because all official information relating to effective strength and movements of troops is withheld, and because the information contained in the press has been meagre and unsatisfactory.

But I find in the "Clairon" of to-day an article, of which I inclose a copy, giving a list of the regiments of infantry that have furnished battalions for Tunis and Algeria. If this list is, as I believe it to be, correct, there are now more than 100 battalions of infantry in Africa, including the 33 battalions of Zouaves, Tirailleurs Algériens, Infanterie Légère d'Afrique, and Légion Étrangère. Of these, about 70 battalions have been furnished by the infantry of the 18 corps d'armée in France.

Estimating the battalions at from 450 to 500 strong, there are therefore about 50,000 infantry now in Africa, a force which, with the cavalry, artillery, and auxiliary troops, goes far to make up the number of 70,000 men which, on the 11th April last, the Chef du Cabinet of the Minister of War told me would be required in the event of a rising in Algeria (as reported in my despatch of that date).

There are 144 regiments of infantry of the line, only 54 of which have furnished troops for Africa, so that should more infantry be required it can be obtained from the 90 untouched regiments, without mobilization, in the same manner as the later reinforcements have been obtained, viz., by transferring into the 4th battalion of each regiment the men found most physically fit in the whole regiment, and sending that battalion on service, leaving three battalions and two dépôt companies of each regiment in France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BRACKENBURY.

No. 155.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 781.)

My Lord,

Paris, August 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the unofficial "Temps" newspaper dated this day, a Circular letter addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the Préfets, informing them that by the Treaty of the 12th May, 1881, Tunisian subjects in France, as well as in foreign countries, are placed under the protection of the French authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Extract from the "Journal le Temps" of August 21, 1881.

LE Ministre de l'Intérieur et des Cultes a envoyé aux Préfets la lettre suivante :—

"M. le Préfet,

"Le Traité conclu le 12 Mai, 1881, entre le Gouvernement de la République et le Bey de Tunis a eu pour conséquence de placer les Tunisiens, en France, sous la protection des autorités Françaises, et à l'étranger sous celle de nos Agents Diplomatiques et Consulaires.

"M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères m'a fait savoir que, conformément à ces dispositions, le Bey avait relevé de leurs fonctions les Agents Diplomatiques et Consulaires qu'il entretenait à l'étranger.

"En conséquence, les nationaux de la Régence établis ou de passage en France, et notamment les capitaines de navire que leurs opérations commerciales amènent dans nos ports, sont tenus désormais de s'adresser directement aux autorités Françaises pour l'accomplissement des formalités qui étaient remplies jusqu'ici par les autorités Consulaires.

de Turquie, ainsi que pour tout ce qui a trait au règlement ou à la sauvegarde de leurs intérêts.

"Recevez, &c.

" (Pour le Ministre de l'Intérieur et des Cultes),

"Le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat,

(Signé)

"FALLIÈRES."

No. 156.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 86.)

(Telegraphic.)

Marsa, August 21, 1881.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 85 of the 17th, the murderer of the Maltese was tried and publicly executed yesterday.

No. 157.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pouncefote.—(Received August 22.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, August 22, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decipher of a telegram, dated the 20th instant, from Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," reporting his arrival at Tunis, and the departure of Her Majesty's ship "Iris" for Suez, &c.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Monarch," Goletta (Tunis), August 20, 1881.

HAVE arrived at Tunis. "Iris" will leave to-day for Suez, Malta, and Sfax.

No. 158.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22, 5-20 P.M.)

(No. 87.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, August 22, 1881, 11 45 A.M.

M. ROUSTAN has informed the foreign Representatives, by Consul, that the French Consul Resident here has been charged by his Government with the direction of all French Consular affairs in the Regency, and that he himself will continue to direct the political functions of his office.

No. 159.

Sir J. Pouncefote to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 22, 1881.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing a petition from Parlo Carnana, a native of Malta, for assistance to recover compensation for the destruction of his property at Sfax.

I am to request that you will inform the Earl of Kimberley that, as at present advised, Lord Granville is not prepared to support any claim for losses sustained in consequence of the insurrection at Sfax, which was beyond the control of the Bey's Government, but that a Commission, composed of Delegates from France, Italy, Tunis, and this country is about to be instituted to inquire into the occurrences connected with the suppression of the insurrection, and examine the claims that may be presented to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 160.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pouncefote.—(Received August 23.)

Sir, I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Suse, dated the 14th instant, reporting the state of affairs at various parts of the Tunisian coast, and his having visited Melchidieh and Monastir.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 160

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir, THE condition of affairs at Sfax remains unchanged since my letter of the 6th instant.

2. On the 8th August I left Sfax for Suse, staying a night and a portion of a day at Melchidieh and at Monastir. At these places, as at Suse, the towns are quiet, and it is clearly the interest of the Moors that this should continue. The country without them is in disorder.

3. I previously have reported that the country was infested by deserters from the army, who pillaged and set a bad example others followed. Many of these, on promise of pardon, gave themselves up and were conveyed by steamer to Tunis. Shortly after their return they again deserted, and again are a source of disgust, and throughout the country there is anarchy.

4. On Sunday the 7th August Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" visited Hammamet. The Consular Agent there had written to say that some Arabs had attacked the place. No one was sufficiently alarmed to desire to leave it, and the report is considered to be exaggerated, but it is necessary to be determined to defend the place against such raids, but are very badly off for ammunition.

5. I sent Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" to Tunis on the 10th, with despatches of consequence for Mr. Reade. She returned on the 12th, and left the following day for Sfax, where she will remain for the present.

6. Her Majesty's ship "Iris" remains at Tunis.

7. Admiral Courat, with the "La Galissonière," "Reine Blanche," "Volligeur," and "Tromblon," passed Suse for Tunis on the evening of the 12th. This leaves on this side of Tunis the "Alma," two or three gun-boats, and a transport.

8. Her Majesty's ship "Coquette" arrived here at 2 a.m. on the 13th, and after remaining two hours left for Tunis, in execution of her orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON

No. 161.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 44)
(Telegraphic)

Foreign Office, August 23, 1881, 5.15 P.M.

My telegram No. 43 of the 18th August.

Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," will represent Her Majesty's Government on Commission of Inquiry at Sfax.

87

No. 162

Earl Granville to M. Challemet-Lacour.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, August 23, 1881.

WITH reference to my note of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state to your Excellency for the information of the French Government, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have signified their approval of Captain Tryon serving on the proposed Commission of Inquiry into the incidents of the capture of Sfax, and that telegraphic instructions to that effect were sent on the 20th instant to Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" at Suse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 163.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received August 24)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 15, 1881

IT is reported that the Sultan has informed the French Government, in reply to a representation made to His Majesty regarding Bou Amenna and other Arab Chiefs, who had invaded the Algerian territory, and who have since retreated towards Fige and other districts in the south-west of Morocco, that the French troops are free to pursue these marauders within the southern dominions of the Sultan.

I do not think the Sultan had any other course to pursue without involving himself in very grave questions with the French, for he has not the power to chastise Bou Amenna; neither would the Arab tribes of the Sahara, or other southern districts, obey their Sovereign's command.

I do not expect the French forces will obtain any decisive results by pursuing Bou Amenna into the Saharan or Algerian districts.

The Arabs will be driven back, but they will not be driven out of the country. There are too many of them, and they are too well armed. The French troops are too few, and they are too poorly equipped.

It will be a grave question, however, if marauders on the north-western territory are pursued by French forces over the Morocco frontier towards the Moorish towns of Onchida and Taza. Such an eventuality would probably lead to internal revolution and revolt against the Sultan, or to a war between France and Morocco.

The Sultan is on the march towards Morocco; he is expected to arrive at that city by the end of this month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 164.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 24, 1881.

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th ultimo, forwarding copy of a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar, containing copies of letters received from Mr. Abraham E. Levy and Mr. H. Mourant in reference to the appointment of Tunisian Consul in that city. I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will move the Earl of Kimberley to inform his Lordship whether Mr. Levy has ever been formally recognized by the local Government as Tunisian Consul at Gibraltar.

I am to point out that the Bey of Tunis has no Treaty right to appoint Consuls in British territory, and that there is no record in this Department of the issue of an exequatur to Mr. Levy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 95.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 18, 1881.

IT is officially reported that a Maltese was murdered at Sfax, on the 14th instant, by an Arab from Tripoli, who endeavoured thereby to provoke a rising on the part of the native population against the European residents. The assassin was at once arrested and tranquility restored. At an interview which I have just had with the Bey, I was assured by His Highness that exemplary justice will be done in regard of this matter. An excellent effect was, it appears, produced at Sfax, on the occasion of the above murder, by the appearance of several armed boats of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," which were promptly dispatched to the landing place of the town, although their further services were happily not required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 166.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 25, 3 P.M.)

(No. 352.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, August 25, 1881, 1.30 P.M.

THREE complete battalions embarked yesterday for Tripoli from Salonica.

No. 167.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 602.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 674 of the 9th instant, reporting the communications which have passed between your Excellency and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs in reference to the responsibility of the Porte for the maintenance of order in Tripoli, and I have to express the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the manner in which your Excellency has carried out the instructions on this subject, transmitted in my despatch No. 523 of the 26th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 169.

Lord Tenterden to Messrs. Glyn and Son.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1881.

I HAVE laid before Earl Granville your letter of the 19th instant forwarding a letter addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, containing a claim for remuneration on account of services rendered recently by your steam-ship "Genoise" in carrying despatches from Sfax to Sfax, and I am now directed by His Lordship to express to you his regret that the matter is not one in which Her Majesty's Government can properly interfere.

I am, accordingly, to return to you the papers which accompanied your letter, and to suggest, for your consideration, the expediency of communicating directly with the French Government upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 84.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 41 of the 30th ultimo, regarding the concession granted to M. Daninos for the establishment of a pawnbroker's business with exclusive privileges, and inclosing, for my information, a notice published by the French Havas Agency to the effect that the said concession had been granted in 1879, without French intervention, and that, according to the stipulations which were then entered into, it did not constitute a monopoly.

Being instructed by your Lordship to report further on the subject, I beg to submit the following observations:—

It is true the present concession was originally applied for and granted in 1879; but it has never been carried into effect, having been regarded by the concessionaire as valueless, in consequence of its not including the right or power to sell the pawned articles without proceeding against the owners before their respective authorities. Since the conclusion, however, of the late Treaty, the concession has been renewed or confirmed, and a clause has been added to it authorizing the possessor to dispose as he will of all pledged articles which have not been duly redeemed, without reference, as hitherto, to the authorities.

These privileges have been granted with the right to enjoy them for a term of fifty years, and the concession has consequently acquired a real value.

If it were not a fact that the concession constituted a monopoly, British subjects would, I have no doubt, have ere this set up a rival establishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 170.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 26.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 25, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, dated the 17th instant, on board Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Sfax, relative to the murder of a Maltese by a fanatic at that place, and reporting that he had hoisted the British flag on the shore, and that he had fired off the town, but finding that the town was quiet, they returned to the ship the same night.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir

"Monarch," at Sfax, August 17, 1881.

ON the evening of the 13th August, at about 8 o'clock, a report was sent on board that a Maltese had been murdered, an act of fanaticism, and that Jihad (holy war) had been cried.

Mr. Galca, the Vice-Consul, happened to be dining on board, he landed at once, and finding an assembly of people opposite the Consulate, &c., quieted them, and sent them home. He acted with judgment and presence of mind.

Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" hoisted out all boats, and sent them suitably equipped to the pier off the town.

I found the Governor in his house with the French Vice-Consul and Mr. Galca.

Having ascertained that the town was quiet, and that all that in my opinion the case demanded was done, I returned to the ship by 11 P.M.

This incident might easily have ended as at Sfax, so far as a panic is concerned, but here the Caid is a man of ability, and the Consuls showed good sense and example to Europeans, Maltese, and Jews resident, who are not strong-minded.

At Sfax the Catd, who has experience in such matters, appeared to have done nothing on the day of the panic, when example and a word might have checked matters there save to hide himself in a tomb, a sanctuary, where he was well fed, and emerged when affairs settled a bit, to go on board the "Alma." Here, it appears, the matter was well handled.

The man, a fanatic, a stranger to Susa, and a native of Tripoli, but who has lived some years in Tunis, ran past the gates to the town with a naked Arab sword, crying "Jehad!" and hacked to death the first Christian he met, who happened to be an unfortunate Maltese one, Francis Tabona. Then he tried to attack a Jew in a shop, who, however, was protected by two Moors. He was then arrested by some Moors, and at once placed in prison before he could do more.

The town is quite quiet. The precautions taken are that respectable townspeople watch the gates; they do not stop trade, but examine suspected persons. All arms are taken away from those who enter, and they are returned on their leaving. This latter regulation was in force before, but this fanatic, a physically poor creature, who had just arrived in the vicinity of Susa, escaped the guardians.

The man had come from a village (a village is an unwall'd town) where there had been a disturbance, particularly between runaway soldiers, some of whom desired to return, and some to remain in revolution, and the quieter disposed people had some difficulty in only preventing a free fight.

He had been to Suliman and other disturbed places, and the events he had witnessed had probably acted on a weak intellect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 171.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 27.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram dated the 27th August, from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Goletta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 171

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

A MALTESE has been killed in his garden 3 miles from Susa. People there are alarmed, "Falcon" or "Iris" should be there to-day, both ships have been ordered to ports on the north-east coast.

No. 172.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 27, 4-40 p.m.)

(No. 88.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, August 27, 1881, 11-40 p.m.

A MALTESE was assassinated on the 23rd instant by Arab insurgents in the gardens around Susa. Considering the anarchy and disorder which prevails in the immediate neighbourhood of that town, the deceased ought not to have ventured so far. The security of the Christian population of Susa appears to be somewhat compromised by the state of the town gates and guards, which are represented by Captain Tryon and others as wholly inefficient. I have brought this circumstance to the serious attention of the Bey.

No. 173.

M. Challemel-Lacour to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 25 Août, 1881.

M. LE Vice-Amiral, Commandant-en-chef l'Escadre de la Méditerranée, et le Contre-Amiral, Commandant la Division Navale du Levant, ont signalé au Ministre de la Marine l'attitude pleine de courtoisie et de cordialité de M. le Capitaine George Tryon, du bâtiment cuirassé Anglais "Monarch," lors des derniers événements qui se sont produits sur la côte de Tunisie.

M. le Capitaine Tryon, qui n'a cessé d'entretenir, en toutes circonstances, avec nos officiers, les meilleures relations, s'est montré au moment de la prise de Sfax particulièrement empressé à venir, par tous les moyens en son pouvoir, en aide à nos blessés, auxquels il a témoigné une sollicitude dont l'Amiral Gannault a été profondément touché.

Pour satisfaire au désir qui m'est exprimé par M. le Ministre de la Marine, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire parvenir au Capitaine Tryon l'assurance de la sincère gratitude que ses procédés généreux ont inspiré au Gouvernement de la République.

Veillez, &c.
(Signed) P. CHALLEMEL-LACOUR.

No. 174

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 89.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, August 29, 1881.

M. ROUSTAN has informed me of his intention of proceeding to France by the Marseilles packet which leaves to-morrow. He expects to return in the course of three or four weeks.

No. 175.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 86.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my telegram No. 85 of the 17th, that the murderer of the Maltese at Susa was tried, convicted, and publicly executed yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 176

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 87.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 22, 1881.

A CIRCULAR addressed by M. Roustan to the foreign Representatives informs the latter that M. Lequeux, the French Consul at this place, has been charged by his Government with the direction of all French Consular affairs in the Regency, and that M. Roustan's own functions will henceforth be limited to those which have reference to the political or diplomatic department of his office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 91)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 86 (*supra*, p. 87) of yesterday, reporting the appointment of a French Consul to take charge of the Consular affairs of this nation independently of the Minister Resident, I have the honour to transmit a copy of M. Roustan's Circular announcing the above change in the administration of the French Legation and Consulate General.

Regarding this change I beg respectfully to remark that, so far as I am able to form an opinion, its effect will be little more than nominal, the situation remaining, in all material points, unaltered.

M. Lequeux's elevation to a position of higher authority will not, it is believed, diminish the influence which M. Roustan has till now exercised over the affairs of the Consulate-General. His duties will doubtless continue to be those of M. Roustan's Lieutenant.

It is, moreover, in respect of political rather than Consular matters that any difficulty or difference is likely to arise between the French Representative and any of his foreign colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

M. Roustan to Foreign Representatives.

LE Ministre-Résident de la République Française a l'honneur d'informer MM. les Représentants des Puissances étrangères qu'un Consulat de France a été créé à Tunis, indépendamment de la Résidence Française.

M. Lequeux a été nommé titulaire du nouveau poste, et est chargé d'entretenir en cette qualité tous les rapports Consulaires directs avec MM. les Représentants étrangers, et avec le Gouvernement Tunisien par l'intermédiaire du Délégué de son Altesse le Bey pour les Relations Extérieures.

M. Roustan saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à MM. les Représentants des Puissances étrangères l'assurance de sa haute considération.

Tunis, le 20 Août, 1881.

No. 178.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 30, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, dated on board Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," at Goletta, on the 24th August, relative to the state of affairs at Susa, Mehediah, and Monastir, and to the condition of matters generally in Tunis.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," at Goletta, August 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Susa for Tunis on the 18th August, and arrived at Goletta the following day.

2. I dispatched Her Majesty's ship "Iris" on the 20th to Susa, and, if affairs there were quiet, Captain Seymour was to go to Malta, but only to land hospital cases, and to

pick up some men in accordance with your directions, and having done so to go to Sfax.

3. Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" will leave Sfax on the arrival of the "Iris," and visit the towns north of the Kerkenahs, making Susa her head-quarters.

4. Though all was perfectly quiet at Susa so far as its inhabitants are concerned, and to all appearances this was likely to continue (they are a well-to-do, fat, quiet, and lazy people), and the same conditions as to quiet existed at Mehediah and Monastir, both of which places were visited by the French iron-clad "Alma" after I had done so, on the 17th Mehediah was subject to a raid of Arabs, and, though they were driven off, the panic-stricken population took refuge afloat in boats, &c. Then, on the 20th, Susa was subject to alarms, and, in the opinion of our Vice-Consul, Mr. Galea, it was seriously threatened by Arabs.

5. Hammammeth has also recently been threatened, and a place not far from Tabourba, on the railway, has been subject to a raid.

6. Everything is put down to Arab-robbers, and though they are a chief source of trouble; but there are runaway soldiers, escaped prisoners, and other persons from villages forming bands of robbers. Wherever the French appear they maintain order within the radius of their influence, and a threat of a Bey's force is, of course, a subside. No armed force dare appear; thus the guards, locally and voluntarily protecting large villages, maintaining order within the radius of their influence, and Arabs from without, cease their work, and the conditions which, under ordinary circumstances, are voluntarily adopted for self-preservation and good order, no longer exist, and no other system is substituted. This condition offers a fine chance for robbers.

7. Governors of such towns as Susa have no reliable force at their disposal. A few citizens sit or sleep at the gates to watch those who enter, aided by a few men with no arms worth calling such, the whole guard not exceeding eight or ten. They are not paid; but when some one is arrested, or something has to be done, they pick up a few pistoles. I saw no gate in any town that could not be forced by twenty resolute men; and while the townspeople are, as a whole, quiet and well-disposed, they are not prepared to fight their co-religionists. It is a great pity such places should not have a small efficient guard.

8. The French troops will soon be near Hammammeth, and I hear they intend to occupy Mehediah.

9. At this time the French have three iron-clads here. Admiral Conrad keeps his big ships together, and his gun-boats visit the coast.

10. The people of Mehediah petition for the presence of a larger vessel than the "Volageur." The "Volageur" is a very good, well-armed vessel, but her size is not imposing, and the presence of a gun-vessel is not sufficient to give confidence, or to inspire fear on those who ignorantly are more influenced by size.

11. I apprehend that so soon as the French rest in the position they are now taking up that we shall have more disturbances and alarms on the east coast. Bands of robbers will probably be formed, and the French will be obliged to move their numbers and efforts will be more concentrated on the east coast.

12. In the open anchorages on the coast during the winter season the presence of a ship of war will be of little avail, for days together, for purposes of protection to life, communication will be interrupted.

13. Arabs compel villagers, when they are unable to resist them, to join them, whether they will or no; if they do not, they pillage them, and anyhow they requisition on them, and while the Arabs may expect usually to escape, the punishment will fall on those who would gladly remain quiet.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

G. TRYON.

No. 179.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 31.)

(Confidential)

My Lord,

Admiralty, August 31, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram, dated the 30th August, from Captain Tryon (Her Majesty's ship "Monarch"), at

Goletta, reporting an attack on a French column by Arabs, and insecurity of towns on the east coast of Tunis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Paraphrase of a Telegram from Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Monarch," at Goletta, August 30, 1881.

AN attack has been made by Arabs on a French column entering a defile on its way to the east coast. The progress of the column was arrested, and the convoy was cut off. Reinforcements were sent at once from Tunis, and troops will also be dispatched to Hammammeth.

Captain Tryon considers towns on the east coast to be insecure, and leaves Tunis at once (for the east coast). He will send the "Falcon" to Goletta as soon as possible.

No. 180.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 1.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 88.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 26, 1881.

IT is officially reported that a Maltese was assassinated on the 23rd instant by Arab insurgents in the gardens adjoining Suse. Considering the anarchy and disturbance which prevail in that part of the country, the unfortunate man ought not to have ventured so far out of town. The security of the Christian populations of Suse cannot be guaranteed so long as the town gates and guards continue in their present state of inefficiency. This is insisted on by Captain Tryon and others, and I have not failed to bring the subject to the serious notice of His Highness the Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 181.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 82.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 26, 1881.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 88 of this day, announcing the assassination of a Maltese in the gardens adjoining Suse, I have the honour to transmit a copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Galea's Report upon the circumstances under which that occurrence took place. I am led to do so by the alarming description which the Vice-Consul gives of the general state of the district round Suse.

The statement, although probably exaggerated, affords, I believe, some evidence of the anarchical condition of the country generally, and the advantage of maintaining the existing communications between Her Majesty's ships and the various outposts of the Regency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Vice-Consul Galea to Mr. Reade.

Sir,

Suse, August 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that a Maltese named Giannaria Attard was killed this morning about 3 miles out of town, in his garden, by some Arab horsemen. He received two gun-shots, one passing right through the chest from behind, and the other lacerating his left shoulder.

All the gardens around Suse were destroyed last night by the Arab marauders, and this morning the Shieh at the gate recommended him strongly not to venture out, but hard-headedly he went.

On hearing of the occurrence I went to the local authorities, who sent out twenty horsemen, and they brought the body back on a cart. The body was examined by the doctor and two Government notaries, and this afternoon it was interred at 5 p. m.

We are in a very critical situation for the following reason: The villagers of the Kala Grande, along with the Arabs of Zliss and Uled Soud, who are at present in the Kala and being maintained at the expense of the villagers, have sworn to fight together, and their plan is to attack Suse. They intend placing a number of men under the walls close to the gates, so that when they are opened in the morning they will enter, and then the horsemen, who are at a short distance, will also enter. Their first step is to be the releasing of the prisoners, and then to kill all the Christians and Jews without distinction.

The state of the town is now very serious, and I assure you, until the last day or so, I never treated it as a very dangerous place. But now I see we are in absolute danger, so I trust you will give the matter at least consideration, and arrange that we have some permanent protection.

The guard in position I had from a trustworthy Maltese, who was present at the meeting of the Arabs at the Kala, and his details are very long. I have been to General Baccari, and we agreed to keep the gate at the top of the town, Bab-el-Gharbi, shut, which commenced to day. The other two gates will be shut, one at sunset, the other half-an-hour later, and the opening of the gates, two, will not be before half an hour after sunrise. The night guards, instead of going round the town, will remain all night on the bastions. After arranging the above I spoke to the French and Italian Vice-Consuls, and they agreed with what we had done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GALEA.

No. 182.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 3.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, September 3, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram dated 1st September, from Commander Selby, Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," Goletta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON

Inclosure in No. 182.

Commander Selby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Falcon," at Goletta, September 1, 1881.

HAVE arrived Tunis. 1,000 French troops occupied Hammammeth on the 31st August. No resistance.

No. 183.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)

My Lord

Tangier, August 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 26 of the 16th instant, transmitting copies of despatches addressed to Mr. West and Mr. Langley, making known to them the language which had been held to your Lordship by the Marquis de Casa Langhena regarding the apprehension felt by the Spanish Government respecting French designs in Morocco.

I have not received any recent information of an official character which would confirm these apprehensions, but your Lordship is aware, from language I have held, that I am also of opinion that the French Government entertains ambitious views in Morocco, though I do not think that at the present moment, when their attention must

[1881]

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be engaged by the events which have been brought about through their aggressive intrusion in Tunis, that they will attempt this year to carry into execution projects of a similar character in Morocco, but it should be borne in mind that at any unforeseen moment some Commander of the French forces in Algeria may find a sufficient pretext to invade suddenly the Morocco territory.

In French journals it is reported that a force will be sent against Boo Amama in the end of next month, and it is rumoured, though I have no communication from the Moorish Government on the subject, that the Sultan has consented that Boo Amama, or other Chiefs hostile to the French, who may take refuge within the Morocco territory, may be pursued by the French troops.

It is not likely that such an expedition would lead to any important beneficial results, for there are no towns or castles to attack in the south-eastern districts, where Boo Amama and the Chiefs of the Ad Chel Beni are generally situated.

When a French force approaches they will flee; when the French retire they will advance, and probably seek for an opportunity to renew their depredations.

The French Government is no doubt well informed regarding the probability of success of such expeditions, but are they prepared to assume the responsibility of the consequences that may ensue, and to give assurances that should they enter the Morocco territory, they will not bring about the downfall of the Sultan's Government, which would be followed by the direct disasters to Christians and Jews?

There is no doubt that the slender power of control which Sultan Mulai Hassan still retains over his fanatical subjects, as the "Caliph Allah," will be lost, whenever the population have manifest and convincing proofs that either he is the friend of the hated French or that he is impotent to prevent the invasion of his territory.

We are living in this country, as it were, on the crater of a volcano. Though tranquillity reigns for the present here there are disturbing causes, and those who know the Moroccan situation and the wrongs they suffer by the depredations of the French, ought not to allow themselves to be lulled into a sense of security.

The fatal outbreak in Algeria and Tunis, the murder of innocent and unarmed Christians and Jews, the destruction of property, were provoked by the French attempt of the French to "make a trade of our subjects" by selling them to the Algerians. The French Government, it is presumed, had not foreseen the consequences of events which have been provoked by their interference, but that they would be required to erect and a large military force the day of Tunis. Do they foresee what will happen in Morocco if they attempt to chastise Boo Amama or other Chiefs within the Morocco territory?

If the French Government have ambitious views, and are prepared at the present time, to make themselves masters of Morocco, it may be whispered at Paris and Algeria that the commission of atrocities, and the disappearance of the Sultan's authority, will forward those views, for they may surmise that the civilized world would then sanction, or even call on them, in the name of humanity, to march to Fez, to establish a Government which would put an end to acts of barbarity.

Taking into consideration the experience we have had lately of the deplorable state of affairs brought about by French interference in Tunis, and the loss of life and property which it has caused, I venture, with due deference to your Lordship's superior judgment, to submit whether it may not be expedient that some timely step of a friendly and confidential character should be taken at Paris with the view of pointing out the apprehensions that are entertained, and the grave responsibility which will be assumed by the French Government if an outbreak of fanaticism against Christians and Jews should take place in this country consequent on an invasion of the Morocco territory, even if the consent of the Sultan had been obtained?

Would it not, also, be an opportunity, if the French Government show reluctance to listen to such a friendly intimation, and bring forward the valid argument, that they have an undoubted right to chastise the aggressors of French territory, to let them clearly understand that they must not be surprised that the British or other Governments, warned by late events, should take timely steps to guard their own interests and the safety of their subjects in Morocco?

Such a step, it has occurred to me, might possibly induce the French Government to act with caution, and even to forego the slender chance of inflicting a chastisement on Chiefs who escaped into the Moorish territory.

Even if the French Government is anxious to avoid the risk of serious complications,

there is always the danger that some French General, seeking for renown, and encouraged, perhaps, by the French Legislature, and it is not improbable, may be able to imitate the policy of M. Bonstan, may precipitate events, unless strict instructions are sent from Paris to prevent the possibility of such a contingency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S. 28th August.—Since writing the despatch I have received the Spanish journal "Epoca," from which I transmit an extract.

I have been shown a despatch from a foreign Consular officer, in which he says that it is rumoured that Cid Sulyman Ben Kador has assembled a force in the district of Oulad Cid Esheikh,* and that, if a French force enters the Maroccan territory, he will retreat towards Fez, and raise the whole country against the Sultan.

From other quarters I have not received bearings which would lead me to believe this report; but it is supposed also by some that Cid Sulyman is in the pay of the French Government. This would be very serious, but I do not credit the report.

J. H. D. H.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Extract from the Spanish Paper "Epoca" of August 24, 1881.

(Translated.)

The "Imparcial" has received telegraphic information that negotiations are taking place between the French Government and the Sultan of Morocco to prevent a conflict next autumn, when military operations commence on the south of the Province of Oran and in the direction of Figig, as it would appear certain insurrectionary tribes are disposed to take refuge in the Moorish territory, and invoking certain clauses of the Treaty of 1845, which admits of conflicting interpretations.

It is declared that both Governments are disposed to abrogate the Treaty and to introduce some modifications.

These questions affect us directly. We are able and we ought to adhere to a policy of neutrality.

The isolation in which we are placed ought not to allow us to compromise our country in adventures which patriotism rejects, but if, through circumstances which are not under our control, the French Government should cause them to mix themselves up in affairs in Morocco, it would be impossible for us to remain passive, impossible, if the question of the Mediterranean and the independence of Morocco brought forward, that Spain, which is in peace and friendship with that Empire, should not mark the interest she has in the African question.

No. 184.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received September 5.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 3, 1881.

IN reply to your letter of the 16th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a letter from Messrs. Perry and Bury complaining of the detention of goods belonging to them by the French authorities at Gabes and Sfax, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the perusal of Earl Granville, a copy of a Report on the subject, dated the 26th ultimo, from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Murchison."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALLE.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir, "Monarch," at Goletta, August 26, 1881.
 WITH reference to the letter dated Foreign Office, the 16th August 1881, requesting "inquiry to be made of Captain Tryon as to the circumstances referred to" in a letter from Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., I beg to report that at Sfax the esparto grass stacks and yards were important in a military sense to defenders, and subsequently to the French, who captured them by the rush on the 18th July.

2. Conspicuous among the stacks of esparto were the yard and stacks belonging to the above firm; it was trenched around with a double trench, fenced and gated, and within were large sheds. The good order and arrangement of this yard saved the grass within it from being burnt, when other grass was destroyed by a fire which extended up to the ditch.

3. Some esparto grass was used by the defenders to face the rifle trench parallel to the beach, and for other such purposes. These were removed by the French when those works were levelled by them.

4. So soon as Sfax fell, the French used a considerable number of bales of esparto to make rifle screens and defensive works, and subsequently some were used to screen a hospital and for other purposes, and the yard and sheds were occupied by a large body of troops who still remained there when I left Sfax on the 28th instant.

5. Mr. Galea, the agent of the above firm, drew my attention to the subject, but I had no specific complaint to justify my interference. I received a complaint that there was a difficulty, immediately after the fall of the place, about removing two large lighters laden with grass from the beach, which the agent wished to discharge into the barque "Agnes." On the subject being mentioned, leave was at once given.

6. Again, for some days after the fall, permission could not be obtained for his labourers (Sfax men) to work in the yard. In my opinion this was perfectly right. No Moors or Arabs, save under great precautions, were admitted to the town for many days, indeed fanatical acts continued for several days, and it would have been imprudent to have landed such men, who could not have been readily distinguished from Arabs hostile to the French. I moved in the matter, and leave was eventually given, and I furnished canvas bands with conspicuous numbers, to be worn like cross-belts, to distinguish these men. I considered that sufficient military reasons dictated what was done with reference to this grass.

7. Mr. Galea informed me he had the books of the firm, and can show what was stowed there before the revolution, and a stock subsequently taken when the yard is restored to him will show what has gone.

8. As to Gabes, Mr. Galea informed me that an agent of the firm, and, I think, the French Consular Agent, and another, went there together when the French took it; the grass-yard and the establishment, including a small house, I think, were occupied by the French, in fact he gave me to understand that it occupied the best military position, and this he told me before a report from Gabes had been received.

9. I did not go or send a vessel of war to Gabes or Djerba when the French fleet went there. All British subjects were either safe, or away from all places south of Sfax, and it was only subsequently I was aware that there was any property there belonging to British subjects. The villages attacked are some distance from the beach. The property in question is nearer the shore, in the open, on ground slightly higher than that around, I was told.

10. Should their Lordships, after this Report, desire me to "inquire and report further" on this subject it will be necessary either to go there or to send a vessel. My information from Gabes is from sources similar to those on which Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.'s letter is written, and I believe it to be correct in substance. Military reasons led to the holding of both establishments by the French in force, and the use of bales of esparto was a certain military consequence under the circumstances in which the troops were placed.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 185.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 6.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 89.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 29, 1881.

I AM informed by M. Roustan that he intends leaving to-morrow for France by the Marseilles packet, and that he will return to Tunis after an absence of three or four weeks.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 186

Earl Granville to M. Chaillet-Lacour

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 25th instant, conveying the acknowledgments of the French Government for the courtesy and cordiality shown by Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," during the recent operations on the coast of Tunis, in rendering assistance to the French wounded on the occasion of the capture of Sfax, and I assure your Excellency that I have lost no time in requesting the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to communicate the contents of your note to Captain Tryon.

Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the testimony thus borne by the French Government to the humane and courteous conduct of Captain Tryon, and to the good relations so happily subsisting between the naval officers of the two countries employed upon the coast of Tunis.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 187.

Sir J. Pouncefote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 6, 1881.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and for communication to Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," copy of a note from the French Ambassador at this Court, conveying the grateful acknowledgments of his Government for the courtesy displayed by that officer during the recent operations on the coast of Tunis, and for the services which he rendered to the French who were wounded on the occasion of the capture of Sfax.

Earl Granville has received with much gratification the testimony thus borne by the French Government to the courtesy and kindness shown by Captain Tryon under exceptionally trying and difficult circumstances.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) JULIAN POUNCEFOTE.

No. 188

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 8 Septembre, 1881.

INDÉPENDAMMENT de l'enquête sur les événements de Sfax dont a été chargée une Commission Mixte, le Gouvernement du Roi a toujours persisté et persiste encore dans l'opinion qu'une enquête parallèle faite en accord par les Agents Consulaires d'Italie et de Grande Bretagne et ayant pour but de donner une direction plus efficace à l'enquête de la Commission Mixte, est non seulement utile, mais nécessaire. Le Consul de Sa Majesté

[1268]

No. 173.

2 D

Britannique, Mr. Reade, s'était d'abord associé à cet avis et paraissait disposé à procéder avec l'Agent Consulaire Italien à Tunis à une enquête particulière. Cependant, d'après les derniers rapports reçus par le Gouvernement du Roy, il jugerait qu'une pareille coopération lui serait implicitement interdite par les instructions de votre Excellence.

Dans cet état des choses, je viens d'être chargé de signaler ce qui précède à votre bienveillante attention, et de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien autoriser Mr Reade à donner suite à ses premières intentions, dans le cas où le Gouvernement de la Reine serait, comme j'ai lieu de le croire, persuadé de l'utilité d'une enquête supplémentaire à Sfax faite par les deux parties les plus intéressées.

En vous priant encore de vouloir bien me faire parvenir une réponse à ce sujet, je suis, &c.

(Signed) L. F. MENABREA.

No. 189.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Parncefote.—(Received September 9.)

Sir, Admiralty, September 8, 1881.
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of despatches, dated the 31st ultimo and the 1st instant, which have been received from Captain Tryon (Her Majesty's ship "Monarch"), Senior Officer on the coast of Tunis, respecting the state of affairs at Hammamet and Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 189.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour

Sir, "Monarch," Hammamet, August 31, 1881.
I HAVE the honour to report that I anchored off Hammamet at 5.30 a.m. to-day. At anchor were the "Cassard," "Etendard," "Voltigeur," and "Reine Blanche." Captain le Comte de Marquessac, Senior Officer, anchored a few minutes afterwards, also a transport, the "Ville de Barcelone," with about 1,000 men.

2. The inhabitants have been harassed up to this moment by Arabs and robbers, who have plundered their gardens and cattle, and kept up a reign of terror. The Maltese and other European subjects are thankful that the French have come, and the Consular Agent says the Moors are so also.

3. There is no opposition whatever, in fact, there are no means to do so even if there were the will. The troops are landed, and the French flag flies on the fort.

4. There is no news of the French column referred to in my last letter, whose progress was checked about 10 miles from this.

5. There are gaps in the walls of the town. The people have no sufficient arms or ammunition, and with so large a body of people in revolution in the neighbourhood I am not surprised at their having been up till now much alarmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

P.S.—Information has been received that the column that left Tunis for this neighbourhood has turned back, and has camped near Hammam-Lymph, a few miles from Goletta.

G. T.

Inclosure 2 in No. 189

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir, "Monarch," Sfax, September 1, 1881.
I HAVE the honour to report that I left Hammamet this morning, and anchored off Sfax this afternoon. The "Cassard" alone of the French ships remains there, the "Voltigeur" is at Sfax, and the rest returned to Tunis.
2. The 1,000 French infantry remains there. I have reason to suppose that the French intend extending their operations on this coast.
3. Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" goes at once to Tunis. I expect Her Majesty's ship "Iris" here to-morrow. She will await the "Bittern," and then join the Commander-in-chief.
4. The Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," who will be at Tunis at the end of the telegraph wire, has orders to report to the Admiralty and Commander-in-chief direct matters of importance should any occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 190.

Mr. Herbert to Sir J. Parncefote.—(Received September 9.)

Sir, Downing Street, September 8, 1881.
I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Granville, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Malta reporting the number and nationality of the refugees from Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Governor Sir A. Borton to the Earl of Kimberley.

My Lord, Palace, Valetta, August 31, 1881.
ADVERTING to your Lordship's despatch of the 20th July last, I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that from a Report I received from the Superintendent of the Ports it appears that refugees from Sfax, to the number of 325, arrived in this island during the prevalence of disturbances in that town, viz., Maltese, 394; Tunisian, 107; Italian, 21; Greeks, 2; French, 1; 81 of the Tunisian subjects were provided with a free passage back by the French Consul.

I am, moreover, to state that, on the 23rd instant, the Acting Superintendent of Police reported to me that all the foreign refugees had left Malta back for Sfax or Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON.

No. 191.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Parncefote.—(Received September 10.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, Admiralty, September 10, 1881.
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of two telegrams, dated 9th inst. at from Commander W. H. C. Selby of Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," respecting movements of French ships and troops on the coast of Tunis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

Commander Selby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Falcon," Goletta, September 9, 1881.

ON the 4th instant 2,000 French troops arrived at Tunis from Goletta.

On the 5th the "Reine Blanche" left for Sfax.

On the 5th a field battery arrived, and another was ready to embark. Five hundred troops left Manouba for Zagwan, and the same number has arrived from Sfax.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

Commander Selby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"Falcon," Goletta, September 9, 1881.

A FIELD battery and stores have left for Sfax. Two transports, with 1,600 infantry, and two French iron-clads have also gone for same place.

No. 192.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, September 10, 1881.

IN reply to your note of the 8th instant conveying a proposal on the part of the Italian Government that, in addition to the Mixed Commission of Inquiry now sitting at Sfax, a Supplementary Commission should assemble there, to consist of the Consular Agents of Great Britain and Italy, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government think it advisable to await the result of the present inquiry before considering the necessity for instituting any further proceedings in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 193.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12, 11 P.M.)

(No. 93.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, September 12, 1881, 2.40 P.M.

NEWS reached me yesterday evening that Sfax was occupied by French naval and military forces on the preceding day, and without any opposition.

No. 194.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 12, 11 P.M.)

(No. 94.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, September 12, 1881, 2.38 P.M.

MUSTAFA BEN ISMAIL PASHA was this day superseded in the offices of Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs by Mohammed Khasnadar, a former Prime Minister.

No. 195.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 95.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 5, 1881.

IMPORTANT military movements have taken place in this neighbourhood during the last fortnight, which, owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable accounts concerning them, I have not been in a position, until now, to report to your Lordship.

On the 21st of the past month, two columns of French troops, each 1,200 strong and accompanied by a field battery of six guns, proceeded, one in the direction of Hamamet, and the other in that of Zagwan.

On arriving at the Khanga, an extensive wooded ravine situated only a few miles from Hamamet, the first-mentioned column encountered a force of from 6,000 to 8,000 Arabs, and a skirmishing engagement was immediately entered upon between them which lasted during the greater part of four days, when, finding that their communications with Tunis and the Goletta were cut off the French retreated to Hamamet, a strategical point 10 miles distant from this city. The French loss is estimated at 20 killed and 80 wounded, that of the Arabs at treble that amount. A battalion of French troops was, on the following day, transported by sea from the Goletta to Hamamet, where they landed on the 31st ultimo, and immediately occupied the town.

The column which started for Zagwan arrived in three days at Mugin, about 30 miles south of Tunis, without encountering any serious opposition. Two convoys, however, of carts with military stores were attacked by Arabs while proceeding to join the said column, their horses being carried off and some of the drivers (including one Maltese) killed.

Seventeen hundred troops from Toulon landed at the Goletta yesterday, and several thousand more are expected.

Preparations are apparently made for a regular campaign, of which the City of Kairwan is reported to be the main object. Sfax it is also said, is to be militarily occupied, with a view to facilitate operations. After capture of Kairwan, the French army will, it is believed, proceed in a south-westerly direction, invading the Zlaza and other tribes until it is joined by a division which, it is further alleged, is to march towards it from Tibessa or some other point of the Algerine frontier.

My Ali Bey's camp, which started some days ago for the interior, and arrived at Mxas el Bah, a station on the Tunis and Bône-Guelma line, distant 40 miles from this city, has received orders to halt at that place. No reliance whatever appears to be placed in the assistance or co-operation of the Bey's forces, and it is not therefore likely that this camp will proceed further.

Operations are to be hurried on, in anticipation of the heavy autumnal rains which will make the roads impracticable for the passage of artillery and carts with camp equipage and other military stores.

But for the difficulties of transport (and these, it is presumed, will in due time be overcome) the central provinces of the country will be speedily overrun by the invading army, and it is supposed that the campaign is seriously endangered in Kairwan, one of the great strongholds of Islam, will fall, in spite of all the efforts of her faithful but impotent defenders to avert the catastrophe.

The goodwill, however, and affection of the natives will remain unconquered, and a state of chronic insecurity and disorder will be brought about which will involve the necessity of a permanent military occupation of the whole country.

Of the vast number of such a campaign the peaceful inhabitants of the soil will be the principal victims. The more warlike or nomadic Arabs will, for the most part, escape.

If, on the other hand, satisfied with their past achievements and the political ascertainties that have been established in the country, the French were withdrawn from the Tunisian territory, the former condition of peace and tranquillity would, I am convinced, be immediately restored, and the Bey's authority re-established on a permanent and satisfactory basis. It is, however, our past experience can hardly justify us in hoping for such a result, and the outlook is certainly a very gloomy one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 196.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefoot.—(Received September 13.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 12, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Earl Granville that Commander Pusey (Her Majesty's ship "Intrepid") reports from Sfax that, on the 10th instant, that place was quietly occupied by about 2,000 French troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Sir, IN reply to your letter of the 10th instant with reference to Captain Tryon's desire to have a vessel at his disposal at Sfax to enable him to communicate readily with England, via Malta during the Inquiry Commission off that port, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to Earl Granville that Sir Beauclerk Seymour has this day been instructed by telegraph to send another small vessel to Tunis, to be paid under Captain Tryon's orders, and to return to Malta so soon as he can dispense with her.

I am, &c
(Signed) ROBERT HALL

No. 108

Admiralty, September 12, 1881
 Sir, I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to Earl Granville that the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, reported in a letter, dated the 31st ultimo that the "Bittern" would shortly proceed to the coast of Tunis to relieve the "Iris." This relief has been effected, the "Bittern" has been heard of at Sfax on the 10th inst., and the "Iris" has returned to Malta on her way to join Sir Beauchamp Seymour.

(Signed) I am, &c.
ROBERT HALL.

No. 199.

(No. 885.)

140. 889.)
Sir, I TRANSMIT herewith for your information, with reference to your despatch No. 766 of the 14th Aug., six copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin, relative to a proposal made by the Italian Government for the importation of a Sardinian Comrade of Inquiry at Stax, in a company of the British and Italian Consular Agents at that port.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 200.

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, September 15, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the enciphered telegram, dated the 14th instant, from Commander Selby H. R. Mordaunt, R.N., at Guellet, reporting the cutting off the water supply to Tunis, the concentration of 3,000 more troops there, and the difficulties of the French garrison at Zaguan.

Signed) ROBERT HALL

¹ Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 277).

Inclosure in No. 200

Commander Selby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

(Telegraphic.) THP water supply to Tunis has been interrupted. 3,000 more French troops have disembarked at Goletta.

The French garrison of Zagwan is surrounded by Arabs, fighting has been going on for two days. Communication is cut off.

The column sent ten days ago as a reinforcement has retreated to a village 15 miles to the southward of Tunis.

No. 201

(Confidential)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 18, 1881.

I am, &c
(Signed) ROBERT HALL

Inclosure in No. 201.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

(Telegraphic.)
"DECOY" is expected from Malta 17th
after she has been inspected.

No. 202.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 17)

(No. 78. Confidential)

My Lord,

My Lord,
 WITH reference to my despatch No. 72, Secret, of the 16th ultimo, reporting that I had heard that the German Government had requested the Sultan to cede the site for a port, I have the honour to transmit the translation of an extract from a letter addressed to me by Cid Boobekeer, which confirms the essential information I had received on this subject through Kaid Maclean.

Cid Hoobecker's residence is at the city of Marracco, and he was not when he wrote this letter at the Court of the Sultan, who was still marching towards that capital, and will probably have arrived there about this date.

Cid Bonabekeer intends to try and get further information from the Sultan himself when he arrives at Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Extract from a Confidential Letter from Cid Boobekser.

(Translation.)

IN reply to the query you have put me, I have to acquaint you that the German Government requested the Sultan to grant them a site where their subjects could establish themselves and their vessels lie at anchor; that this request had been put

forward was known to many persons at Fez and Mequinez, and it was even supposed that the Sultan had acceded to it.

The site sought for was on the Reef Coast, between the Spanish fortress of Melilla and the Algerine frontier.

It is alleged that the sum of 2,000,000 dollars was offered.

The person who secretly confirmed this report was the Fakir Cid Taber Ben Jeloon, the Secretary of the Vizier, who is employed in writing letters on foreign affairs.

I requested him to tell me, confidentially, whether there was truth in these reports; and he replied, it is perfectly true the request has been made for the cession of two sites on the payment of a large sum of money, but the Sultan replied he could not accede to the request, fearing to involve himself thereby in serious difficulties with France and Spain.

Then the German Government asked that the cession of a site should be granted in the district of Boos.* The Sultan replied that they must await his arrival at Morocco, and that he would make inquiries regarding that district and the feelings of the inhabitants, and would then reply.

This took place about the time of your departure for England.†

I also inquired, secretly, of the brother of the Vizier, Cid Abbas Ben Alarby Moktar, about this, and he replied that it was true, and that he thought some kind of promise had been made to the German Government.

When the Sultan arrives here I shall put the question direct to His Majesty, telling him that I heard this report from various persons when I visited Mogador.

No. 203.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 79. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 9, 1881.

WITH reference to the last paragraph of my despatch No. 64, Secret, of the 20th July, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the confidential Memorandum which I transmitted to the Moorish Court concerning a letter regarding the conduct of their relations with the French has been returned to me, as I had requested, and I find on the margin notes made by the Sultan in his own handwriting:

The Sultan remarks, on the passage where I warned His Majesty against allowing the border tribes subject to his control to join Bou Amama, or engage in hostilities against the French, "This shall be attended to with God's help. He (Sir J. H. D. Hay) is judicious, and we shall keep our eyes open."

On the passage where I warn His Majesty against entering into any engagement with the French which might compromise hereafter his position as an independent Sovereign, the Sultan remarks, "An excellent warning, coming from a friend, which will put us still further on our guard."

On the passage where I recommended he should be especially careful to maintain cordial relations with all friendly Powers and to settle pending questions and claims, His Majesty remarks, "This shall be done."

On the passage where I advise that he should take active steps to prevent the Governors and Sheikhs placing trammels on trade, and to check their arbitrary proceedings towards Jews and others, His Majesty remarks, "We shall bear this in mind."

The Sultan is animated with the best intentions, but he is surrounded by corrupt and ignorant Ministers.

The Mohammedan population of the southern provinces were ruined by the famine of 1879 and the extortions of their Governors during their distress.

The Sultan has attempted, in his southern march, to reduce the rebel tribe of Zair, but without success. His progress towards the city of Morocco has been markedly slow. I am informed that the reason is, that His Majesty feared a rising in the northern provinces, and therefore hesitated to advance lest he should have to return with his army to quell a rebellion at Fez.

The country is in a worse state than I have known it for many years, and the people are ripe for revolt. It is reported that the French intend to march towards the district

* The French of Mogador were always animated.—J. H. D. H.

† In May 1881.

of Figig, which is situated about 80 miles west of the Algerine frontier. It will be a hazardous undertaking, and may imperil the position of the Sultan.

Though it is stated in the French papers that the Sultan has sanctioned the entry into his territory by French forces, sent in pursuit of Bou Amama, I have not had a confirmation of this statement from the Moorish Government, though I have no doubt the Sultan has not ventured, if such a demand has been put forward, to refuse permission to a French army to cross the frontier, as he has not the power to resist their entry, or to compel Bou Amama to depart or even to control his own subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 204.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 80.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 9, 1881.

M. CARVAJAL, who is, I believe, Deputy for Malaga, and who was a Minister during the Republic in Spain, has lately visited Tangier. He is said to have informed the persons to whom he had brought letters of introduction, that the object of his visit was to collect information to enable him to attack the Government on its present inactive policy in Morocco, and to excite public opinion as to the necessity of Spain pursuing a similar line of policy as that which has been adopted by France in Tunis, especially if French troops cross the Morocco frontier, as is reported to be their intention.

M. Carvajal made inquiries of various persons regarding the feelings of the inhabitants of Africa, and tried to induce them to join him, as to whether they would be disposed to accept Spanish protection. He mentioned also that he proposed to take measures to induce Spaniards to settle in the Tangier Province for agricultural purposes, and to obtain Spanish protection for the Moors they might employ.

He is said to have sought for evidence to confirm the statement he had made in the Cortes in 1879,* that I "cultivated three square leagues of land and protected two tribes."

As I have thought it politic to make friends with all the people of this country, high and low, and as much goodwill is shown to me by the peasantry, I am often charged by jealous foreigners with affording protection; but, as I have frequently stated in past despatches, I afford protection to no Moorish subject but the officers of this Legation and my servants, though I use my good offices on behalf of the Jewish subjects of the Sultan when oppressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 205.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 15. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the copy of a Confidential despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, reporting that the French Consul at that port has been in active correspondence with the Chief of Air Bou Amran Cid Hossein-el-Hushem, and has entered into an agreement for opening a trade with French vessels on the western coast to the south of Agadeer.

It is also stated that a French merchant of Mogador, M. Jaquet, has proceeded to Paris to endeavour to obtain the support of the French Government in this enterprise.

On the other hand, I have received tidings, though not of recent date, that the inhabitants of Air Amran and Wadnoon have risen against the authority of Cid Hossein.

If the French Consul is acting under the directions of the Government at Paris, it will tend to confirm the supposition that they desire to weaken the Sultan's authority, in order to carry out their ambitious projects in North Africa.

* See despatch No. 88 of November 18, 1879.

I have communicated confidentially extracts from Mr. Payton's despatch to Cid Mohammed Bargash, for the information of the Sultan.

With reference to that passage in Mr. Payton's despatch where he says that, if I desire it he will send a Moor named Bazam to report upon the proceedings of the French, and to endeavour to upset the arrangements that have been made, it is not my intention to send any Emissary to that district without your Lordship's authority to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Consul Payton to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Mogador, August 24, 1881.

WITH reference to my semi-official letters to Mr. White of the 14th April and 30th May last on the subject of the probable opening of a new port in the Ait Bou Amran (or Ait B' Amran) district, and of the relations between the Sultan and Sheikh Houssein-el-Hashem, of Ait Bou Amran, I have now the honour to communicate to your Excellency some further information which I have received on these subjects.

I am informed that the promises made by the Sultan to Sheikh Houssein to secure his opposition to the opening of a new port within his territory have not been fulfilled, and that the negotiations which have been for some time going on between Sheikh Houssein and the French are now nearly completed; that all details as to the new port are arranged, and the people of Ait Bou Amran ready to welcome the Europeans whenever they land.

It is stated that these negotiations have been carried on mainly between Sheikh el-Hashem and the French Consul here, whose "talab" lately visited the Sheikh, since which visit couriers have been constantly going backwards and forwards.

It is also reported that the only hitch in the proceedings is that the Sheikh, desirous of being protected from the anger of the Sultan, is anxious that the landing should be effected with the sanction and support of the French Government, and that the present visit to France of M. Jaquet, late Acting Chancellor of the Consulate here, is undertaken for the purpose of obtaining such sanction and support to the enterprise.

The site for the new port is, I am told, some 5 or 6 days from Mogador, say 150 miles, and it is considered, from its situation, a much better entrepôt for the Soos and Timbuctoo trade than Mackenzie's Port Victoria.

There is, I believe, no town at Ait B' Amran but the Sheikh has large dwellings, one of them being a kind of fortress, on the top of a mountain, well stored with provisions, &c.

Some traders came here lately with ostrich feathers from Timbuctoo, a place about 10 days from Mogador and 60 days from Timbuctoo. The French Consul had interviews with them, it is believed, with a view of getting them to induce their Kabylas to favour the new port enterprise.

My principal informant in this matter, who makes most positive assertion that his information is correct, is Cid Absalam Barzani.

He says he has many friends in the south, and would undertake, if your Excellency desired it, to go down there and report fully, or would even endeavour to upset the arrangement.

I shall endeavour to obtain confirmation of his news from other sources meantime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 206.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 12, 1881.

MR. ANTONIO MISSUD, a British subject residing at this place, has complained to me that a French military force of from 300 to 400 men took forcible possession some days ago of a farm belonging to him called "Shusha," and situated at the distance of about four miles from this city.

A number of Arab labourers in charge of the farm were driven off the premises.

The building, consisting of a dwelling-house and cattle yard, and standing upon some elevated ground commanding the roads to Tunis, the Goletta, and Hammanlymph, was

immediately occupied by the above force; a portion of it was knocked down, and the remainder loopholed and put into a condition of defence.

All this was done without the knowledge or consent of the owner, and in the absence of any officially-declared state of siege or war constitutes, it appears to me, a violation of domicile which should not, in my humble opinion, be allowed to pass without protest. A protest of which a translation is herewith enclosed was, in fact, been entered by Mr. Missud against this aggressive and apparently unwarranted act, and I have given official course to it, but I have, nevertheless, felt that, pending the result of that protest, and in view of the extraordinary circumstances that have given rise to it, it is my duty to bring the matter to your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Protest of Mr. Antonio Missud, British subject, against forcible Seizure and Occupation by French Troops of a Farm belonging to him.

(Translation.)

ANTONIO MISSUD, British subject, land-owner, residing in Tunis, has the honour to bring to your notice—

That he is the owner of an enshir (farm) at the Shusha, on the road that leads to Hammanlymph.

That in the said enshir there is a dwelling-house;

That on Wednesday afternoon, the 7th instant, the said enshir and the house were occupied by French troops;

That the next morning, your petitioner having gone to the place in order to verify the above circumstances and the destruction of the dwelling-house, he was taking possession of the enshir and house, the French had begun to construct certain works, which completely alter the premises from what they were intended to be, and this has been done in such a way that your petitioner is thereby considerably damaged.

That, in addition to the damages already sustained in consequence of the new works which have been completed, and those which the French have declared their intention to undertake for the purposes of defence, the petitioner begs to state that he has been deprived of the right of enjoying and disposing of his property according to his own free will, and that, consequently, he has to suffer considerable loss, especially as he is obliged to hire some other locality in which to shelter his animals;

That, without entering into the merits of the action exercised to his prejudice or, quashing the proceedings, he is entitled to request, as a foreign subject—putting aside all juridical considerations of this kind—without making a claim as to right of facts, he desires to protest as he does hereby formally protest against whatsoever it may concern, for all losses or damages which he has already suffered or may hereafter suffer, and, reserving to himself the right to stop and pursue any right he may have of pursuing another course of action, begs that the said protest be considered by a copy of this protest may be transmitted to the French Consulate here, to be notified to the general commander of the military force, and another copy to the Government of His Highness the Bey of Tunis, for the ends of justice.

(Signed) BENSASSON.

Tunis, September 8, 1881.

No. 207.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Parncefote.—(Received September 19.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 17, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that, it being considered desirable that Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" should be ordered to Malta for a week to give leave to her crew, the following arrangement has been made to secure Captain Tryon's continuance on the coast of Tunis, and the temporary replacement of the "Monarch" by another iron-clad:

On the 25th instant the "Thunderer," iron-clad, and the "Helicon," dispatch vessel, will leave Gibraltar for Goletta. On their arrival at that port, or wherever the "Monarch"

FC 403/21

ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
R. C. REC'D
OFFICE, LONDON

may be, Captain Tryon will take the "Thunderer" temporarily under his orders, and will repair on board the "Helicon" with his gig and crew. The "Monarch" will then proceed to Malta, and remain there for a week. On her return to the Tunisian coast the "Thunderer" will proceed to Malta, and the "Helicon" will revert to her usual duties, on Captain Tryon rejoining his ship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 208.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 20.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 93.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 12, 1881.

THE occupation, on the 10th instant, of Suse by French naval and military forces, was officially reported here yesterday evening. No opposition on the part of the natives appears to have been made to this occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 209.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 99.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 93 of the 12th instant, announcing the occupation of Suse by French troops, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I this day received from Mr. Vice-Consul Galea, reporting upon the general state of affairs in that part of the Regency.

In the districts lying about midway between this and Suse, in the neighbourhood of Zaghwan, and throughout the line of country which extends from that place to Mobamdia, a village not more than ten miles distant from Tunis, the condition of things appears to be as unsatisfactory as that which is described by Mr. Galea, and I believe the same may be said in respect of the inland provinces generally.

The column of General Sabatier, to which I referred in my despatch No. 93 of the 5th instant as having reached Mugrin, in the neighbourhood of Zaghwan, has, since then, been cut off from communication with the sea-coast, and the aqueduct which supplies this city and the Goletta with water from springs on the Zaghwan Mountain, and which it was one of the main objects of the column to protect, has been broken into at several points, and rendered, for the time being, useless.

To open up communications with General Sabatier, reinforcements to the number of 500 men were, some days ago, dispatched secretly from Manouba; but they fell in with a much larger force of Arabs about midway between Maloudia and Zaghwan, and were obliged to retire to the first-named village.

On this occasion four French soldiers are reported to have been killed, as well as an Italian sutler, whose dead body has been brought into town, and bears evidences of having been burnt and otherwise ill-treated.

During the past night and this morning 2,000 more troops, who had within the last two or three days disembarked at the Goletta from transports which had brought them from Toulon, proceeded in the direction of Zaghwan.

Measures are being taken for the speedy restoration of the aqueduct, and its being guarded against the possibility of any further attack from the Arabs.

Colonel Correard, the officer in command of the column which, in the latter end of the past month, retreated from the Khanga, near Hamamet, to Hamamlymph, having, as I understand, stated his losses on that occasion at one officer and five soldiers killed and eighteen wounded, I beg to mention the circumstance, and to explain that the larger estimate given in my report of that engagement (No. 95 of the 5th September) was the one to which, in the absence of any more authentic statement, credit was very currently given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 209.

Vice-Consul Galea to Mr. Reade.

Sir,

Suse, September 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report regarding the country.—
5th.—Yesterday about 500 soldiers and 400 mules left Kala Grande to join Bilwaar, the Governor of the Ued Saad tribe, and as he wrote to the Kala to send fifty artillerymen with them, it is supposed they have some cannons with them, they are to march to Soudia behind Ziwan. At the Kala they have made several arrangements. To-day the Headmen were told by the villagers to come to Suse, as they expected the French to land. Ab-bin-Amer is Bey of the village and Bin Mabrook is Bey of the soldiers at the Kala. They are obliging the Headmen to send so many to be able to buy gunpowder, and I have been assured that the powder General Baccouch carried among the villagers is being sold to the insurgents at 5 pps. a pound, in Suse a person had no powder which he sold at 10 pps. per pound.

The "Elandar" arrived from the coast. A mile from Suse some Arabs attacked three carts loaded with cotton goods and three camels, the goods, camels, and camels were taken, and the drivers were left unmolested.

6th September.—Ab-bin-Misc, at Kairwan, received letters from Ali-bin-Hlifa, telling him to collect all his forces and march on Kairwan, and to keep firm, because there was a strong Turkish force on this side of the border of Tripoli.

There are several Suse people, especially Headmen, who show malcontent, and declare openly that if the French land they will shut the gates of the town, and if this happens the French will certainly fire on and destroy the town.

It is reported that the Arabs of Zlass carried to Kairwan over 100 dead from the engagement at the Hanga; therefore the other tribes must also have suffered some losses.

Bilwaar sent a courier to the Kala telling them to march on Erbaïn, as the Zuawa, irregular soldiers of the Bey, had joined them.

The French Vice-Consul on hearing this made it known to the commander of the "Elandar," who left for Hamamet to inform the troops.

Yesterday night the villagers and soldiers of Kairwan slept at 1 K. I., and this morning left to join Bilwaar at the Erbaïn, and they also are all the villagers. M. M. all by the order of Bilwaar.

Yesterday General Baccouch gave a canister of powder to the villagers of Hergin, and on returning they were attacked by the villagers of Hamem, who took the powder and their arms and also the Sluckh prisoner.

It is clear from the different reports that the Zuawa have joined the insurgents.

7th.—A Moorish woman told a Maltese family that the Bishop of the town was gathering a number of villagers in the town to offer resistance to the French should they attempt to land here.

"Reine Blanche" arrived yesterday and left to-day for Sfax; two gun-boats arrived yesterday, the French postal steamer arrived to-day, having landed two batteries of artillery and cavalry at Hamamet.

Yesterday two of the villagers of Hamem, who had assaulted the Hergin people and stolen their powder, were arrested in Suse; these two individuals had entered a saint house, but General Baccouch ordered them to be taken out, and they received 500 lashes each and were put in prison.

It is known on good authority that the Zuawa of the Bey have gone right over to the Arabs, a number deserted, others went to Kairwan, and the remainder went to the Enfida, and Bilwaar made a fortification with the cannons; therefore his reason for sending to the Kala for artillerymen.

A French column marched from Hamamet to Erbaïn without meeting either the camp of the Bey or the Arabs. The Arabs are marching in two columns, one on the camp of Sidi Ali Bey and the other on Kairwan.

Yesterday the captain of the "Reine Blanche," with General Baccouch and the French Vice-Consul, had a long conference, and General Baccouch insisted on the "Reine Blanche" bombarding the Kala Grande, and the captain was of the opinion to do so, but the Vice-Consul maintained that it should not take place because it would make a great impression on the citizens of Suse, and as there were no too serious might have been the result. Yesterday a letter from the French vessel took the following for about a mile from the town, and this

movement caused an alarm among the natives, who thought that a landing would take place unawares at Suse, and I think they should not have done it, as they caused a lot of murmuring in town without acting.

Powder delivered by the Governor to villages he considered loyal within the last month —

| | Station | Quantity | Remarks |
|-----------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Mirra | 48 | 45 8 | |
| Yucca | 31 8 | 47 8 | |
| Musk | 47 1 | 1 12 | |
| Zinc Oxide .. . | 7 8 | 12 | |
| Zinc Sulfate .. | 69 1 | 1 4 | |
| B. P. | 1 4 | 38 | |
| Sulfur | 12 | | |

in all 1,478 rotoli, equal to 147 cwts., and several other parcels delivered from the fort of which we do not know.

8th.—Bin Misri wrote to Yacuda for soldiers, threatening to destroy the village if they did not come.

A telegram from Monastir reported the approach of some Arabs, who stole 200 sheep. The townspeople armed themselves and followed them.

Luigi Rizzo and Antonio Darmanin, about 10 A.M., met two Moors. The one said to the other, "Let us call out 'Ghed,' and cause a revolution in Suse." Luigi asked them why, and he said the time had arrived. The two Moors passed my house, and as I was in the office Luigi entered and advised me. I sent the Dragoman after the Moors, who stopped before and then entered a shop where they sell arms. In the meantime I got a shirra, who with my Dragoman took them to the local authorities, and they were put in prison.

11th.—Misri arrived yesterday at the Enfida, where he met Bilwaar, and, joining the other Arabs and villagers of the Kala, left during the night for Smengia.

More villagers are preparing provisions, so as to join the others.

The villagers who sell oil at Suse are taxed from 10 per cent. upwards of the value, which money is to supply the villages with arms and ammunition. The large quantities of the arms are brought from Karwan. It is reported they are making gunpowder at Al Gebel.

Letters received from Gnippia report that the Arabs of that district (Euled Imhammed) are in revolution, and all the Europeans of that place are in boats.

The joining of the Bey's camp at Erbaum with the Arabs has been contradicted, but the half have deserted and the others retired to Tunis.

10th.—The Monastir people retook their sheep from the Arabs.

The "Vultigeur" sent one of her boats for the second time to take soundings along the shore.

The Commander of the "Vultigeur" examined the barracks in the Kasba.

10th.—At daybreak five men-of-war were in sight, and shortly afterwards they anchored. They were the "Alma," the "Galissonière," frigates, the "Tern," transport, and two steamers of the Transatlantic Company, with 1,500 infantry and 200 artillery on board. A slight alarm commenced among the Europeans and Moors, and I went to General Baccouch, who informed me that he was prepared to hand over the town to the French. About 11 A.M. the landing commenced, and General Baccouch, Cadi, Musti, and all the Notables of the town received the French at Keb Isadeed.

With all this the Europeans were alarmed, and my house was crowded with women and children until the landing was finished. It would have been impossible for it to have taken place more quietly, and in the afternoon the town had its usual appearance with the exception of the whole population looking more pleased.

The "Iris" arrived this morning and left at once to join the fleet.

The "Vultigeur" left for sea and the "Bittern" for Sfax.

I feel it advisable to make the following observations: If the French had not occupied Suse at present it would have been unfortunate for all the Regency; for example, here there are 1,500 labourers who make a living by their daily labour, and at present they are idle; also the small shopkeepers, gardeners, and camel-drivers are idle, and they all murmur, and necessity would probably have driven them to steps which might have ended in a revolution.

And there is another point which is still more ruinous, that is, the crops of last year were very poor, and in some districts they were abandoned, and if the troops do not occupy the principal villages as once the olive crop, which promises so well, will be a complete loss, as they will not be able to gather it, and also they will not be able to plough.

and sow their grain, and this in the coming year will cause a general famine in the Regency, and then sickness will follow, and also other serious consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GALEA.

No. 210.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 14, 1881.

BY telegraph on the 12th instant I had the honour to report the appointment of Sy Mohamed Kasnadar, an ex-Prime Minister of the Bey, to the offices of Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the place of Sy Mustapha-ben-Ismaïl, whose resignation of those offices has been accepted by His Highness.

This change is the immediate consequence of a telegram which it is known the Bey had received from M. Roustan, and has given general satisfaction, notwithstanding the fears which are entertained in some quarters that its object has been chiefly to whitewash the reputation of others far more responsible than the late Minister was for all the evils that have befallen this country.

The new Minister, although upwards of 80 years of age, is endowed with great energy of character, and, judging from his past administration, there is no doubt that, if left to the guidance of his own will, he will rule the country in a manner to satisfy the wishes of the people generally. Being the possessor of great wealth, his requirements do not, as in the case of others who have preceded him in office, take the form of extortionate contributions from the natives. He is fully alive, however, to the difficulties of the situation, and but for the importunities of his friends and the repeated injunctions of the Bey, which it was impossible for him to disregard, no conceivable object would have been strong enough to induce him to return to power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 211.

Sir J. Pannecote to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Paris, 30th September 20, 1881.

WITH reference to the appointment of Captain Tryon upon the Commission to enquire into the circumstances attending the bombardment of Sfax, and the claims arising therefrom, I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that it would be desirable to furnish that officer with confidential instructions for his guidance during the inquiry.

The Commission is not at present authorized to award compensation, but it will be the duty of Captain Tryon to take measures, in concert with the British Vice-Consul at Sfax, to bring before it all the evidence obtainable in support of the British reclamations.

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his note to Mr. Adams of the 12th August last (which will be found at page 5 of the inclosed correspondence), expressly reserved the consideration of the consequences which might flow from the Report of the Commission. It may be that, in the view of the French Government, the Bey of Tunis should be held responsible for some of the losses sustained.

As regards the liability of the French Government, I am to offer the following remarks —

The general question of the liability of a Government to make compensation to neutrals under special circumstances was carefully considered on the occasion of the bombardment of Gretna by the United States' forces in 1854. Her Majesty's Government were then advised by the Law Officers of the Crown that where one State proceeds to acts of hostility against the territory of another, whether with or without a formal declaration of war, the subjects of a third or neutral Power, who may be residing in the State which is attacked and under its protection, cannot be in a better position than its own subjects; neither can their presence operate to restrain the full exercise of the belligerent rights of the attacking Power, which undoubtedly would be the case if the attacking Power were liable to make compensation for damage done to subjects of a neutral State, as distinguished from the subjects of the Powers against which it exercised

acts of hostility. In the case of Greytown it was considered that, although the attack was a cruel and unjust aggression, it was not the less an act of hostility between the Governments of the United States and of Greytown, to which the ordinary incidents of a state of public and international hostility must attach.

Similarly, on the occasion of the destruction of Sinope by the Russian fleet in 1853, Her Majesty's Government decided that no compensation could be claimed for the sinking of a British vessel, which lay in the harbour at the time.

On the other hand, claims arising out of the destruction of property during the bombardment of Antwerp by the Dutch in 1830 were pressed upon the Belgian Government, as it was held that the damage was the consequence of an attack on the town on the part of the Belgian troops, and compensation was accordingly claimed from the Neapolitan Government for merchants who suffered by the bombardment of Messina in 1848, on the ground of the non-observance by the military authorities of a promise not to fire whilst certain goods were being removed from the port.

It follows, therefore, that exceptional circumstances must be adduced in order to sustain a claim for compensation against the French Government. Lord Granville considers that Captain Tryon should await some expression of opinion on the part of the French Government before committing himself to any particular view of the subject. In the meanwhile the following might be mentioned as exceptional cases in which it is not improbable that compensation may be obtained from the French Government.

1. Where British property is destroyed by the action of others known to be neutral, has been wrongfully seized, or is destroyed by the action of others.
 2. Where the attack is directed against the property of British subjects, and is either used or destroyed in a furtherance of the attack.
 3. Where the troops of the attacking force have appropriated private British property to their own use, as in the case of the capture of Algiers.
- Lord Granville has suggested that the following instructions in the sense above indicated be transmitted to Captain Tryon, together with the inclosed printed correspondence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 212.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received September 21)

Sir,
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith for the perusal of your Lordship a copy of a letter, dated the 10th instant, from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," in which he states the state of affairs at Sfax; the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" at that place; the capture of Her Majesty's ship "Fris," and the capture of the "Reine Blanche" and Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" at Sfax to the capture of the "Reine Blanche" and Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" at Sfax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to report that the French iron-clad "Reine Blanche," Captain Le Conte de Marquessac arrived off Sfax with the other French Members of the Sfax Commission, and proceeded the next day to that place. The "Monarch" ship "Monarch" left Sfax, and arrived off Sfax the following day.
2. It is difficult to imagine a condition less satisfactory than that at Sfax. Moors there are naturally quiet and unwarlike, and well disposed towards Christians. The townsmen, but the check given to trade by the anarchy that exists throughout the country has thrown many out of work, and has led to a state of anarchy. The walls, while without some villages are in an open and active revolution; others are discontenanced. Animals and goods are stolen up to the gates of the town by robbers.
3. General Borenoch, the Governor, I saw, he did not conceal his sense of uneasiness.

ness; though extra precautions are taken at the gates, they are of the most ineffectual description.

4. Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" arrived at Sfax on the night of the 3rd to relieve Her Majesty's ship "Fris." That vessel left Sfax on the 1st inst. at 10 p.m. and arrived at Sfax with your ship on the 4th inst. at 10 p.m. I regret to hear that Captain Seymour, who has most cordially co-operated with me.

5. The Sfax Commission has had two meetings, and bids fair to last long.

6. Three to four hundred Arabs (numbers estimated by the French) appeared off Sfax yesterday; a French force with some guns went out, but the Arabs left, and the French returned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 213.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received September 22)

Sir,
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith for the perusal of Earl Granville, a copy of the proceedings of the first and second and third and fourth meetings of the Commission appointed to inquire into the capture of Sfax, and to examine any Claims that may be put forward. I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 213.

Proceedings of a Commission appointed to inquire into the circumstances which attended the Capture of Sfax, and to examine any Claims that may be put forward.

First Meeting, held on board "La Reine Blanche," August 29, 1881, at Goletta.

LUNDI, le 29 Août, 1881, à 2 heures, s'est réunie à bord du cuirassé "La Reine Blanche" la Commission Internationale chargée par les Gouvernements de Sa Majesté Britannique, de la République Française, de Sa Majesté le Sultan de Tunisie, le Bey de Tunis, du procédé d'une enquête sur les faits qui se sont produits à Sfax depuis la rébellion du 28 Juin dernier, et sur les conséquences que cette rébellion a entraînées pour les habitants Européens de cette ville.

Étaient présents:

- M. le Commandant Tryon, Capitaine du Vaisseau Commandant du cuirassé "Monarch".
- M. le Comte de Marquessac, Capitaine du Vaisseau Commandant du cuirassé "La Reine Blanche".
- M. le Comte de Contat, Capitaine du Vaisseau Commandant du cuirassé "Magenta".
- M. le Commandant d'Ambrose, Chef de Bataillon du 20^e de Ligne, délégué par M. le Général Legerot, Commandant en-chef.
- Si Mohammed Djelouli, Caid du Kef, délégué par le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Bey de Tunis; et
- M. Gustave Robin, Chancelier de la Residence Française, délégué par M. le Ministre-Resident de la République Française.

La présidence de la Commission a été déferée à l'unanimité à M. le Commandant Marquessac. Les fonctions de Secrétaire ont été confiées à M. Robin. Après avoir donné lecture du procès-verbal de l'enquête aura lieu le plutôt possible à Sfax une séance publique de la Commission, dont le programme sera, savoir:
1. Les faits de toute nature provenant tant du bombardement et de la prise de la ville que de tous les événements qui ont précédé ou suivi cette double opération.

2 Examiner toutes les réclamations produites par les habitants de Sfax, et d'en contrôler l'importance, soit par l'appréciation personnelle des membres de la Commission, soit par les informations et les témoignages que la Commission jugera utiles ou nécessaires de recueillir sur les lieux.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie; la prochaine est ajournée à une date qui sera fixée ultérieurement.

Second Meeting, held in the Governor's House at Sfax, September 9, 1881.

Le 9 Septembre, 1881, à 3 heures de l'après-midi, la Commission Internationale, chargée de l'enquête sur les événements de Sfax, s'est réunie pour la deuxième fois dans cette dernière ville et dans la maison du Gouverneur.

Lecture a été faite du procès-verbal de la première séance qui a été approuvé à l'unanimité avec la modification suivante.

A la deuxième du Préambule, le mot "statuer" a été remplacé par les mots "contrôler l'importance," parce que le mot "statuer" a paru avoir une portée excédant les pouvoirs de la Commission.

M. le Président expose que les dommages et les pertes éprouvés par les habitants de Sfax ont deux causes: les opérations de guerre et les déprédations qui ont pu accompagner la prise de la ville.

La première de ces causes, elle constitue un cas de force majeure. Quant aux déprédations, le Président demande que la question soit écartée au point de vue d'une discussion préalable; mais il demande qu'elles soient examinées en détail au cours de l'enquête.

A l'unanimité la Commission approuve cette manière de voir, et décide qu'elle se réunira demain à 8 heures du matin pour entendre les explications que MM. les Vices-Consuls d'Autriche et d'Allemagne, le Baron de Hergovitz de Sfax, et les Sieurs Reclus, Azouar, Pavlo, Rakitch ont à fournir au sujet des réclamations qu'ils ont respectivement présentées.

La séance s'est levée à 5 heures et demie.

Third Meeting, held in the Governor's House at Sfax, September 10, 1881.

Le procès-verbal de la séance précédente a été lu et approuvé à l'unanimité.

M. le Président communique ensuite une lettre de M. le Vice-Consul d'Autriche l'informant que lui et ses administrés ne pourront pas se présenter devant la Commission avant d'avoir reçu de M. le Consul-Général d'Autriche-Hongrie des instructions à cet effet.

La Commission décide que M. le Président fera le nécessaire pour hâter l'envoi de ces instructions et procède à l'audition de M. Luigi Sabetta, qui a formulé trois réclamations distinctes: l'une en sa qualité de Vice-Consul d'Allemagne, la seconde comme particulier et sujet Italien, et la troisième au nom de la Société existant entre lui et M. William Carleton.

La première de ces réclamations ne mentionnant que des dommages de meubles, la Commission décide à l'unanimité qu'elle se transportera demain à 8 heures du matin à l'habitation de M. Sabetta afin d'estimer de visu ces dommages. Il est convenu à cette occasion que MM. les Commissaires Français, Italien, et Anglais se feront accompagner respectivement de tel expert qu'ils jugeront à propos de choisir.

Quant aux deuxième et troisième réclamations présentées par M. Sabetta, elles forment l'objet d'un examen détaillé, qui est résumé dans un procès-verbal séparé, qui restera annexé au présent. Cet examen occupe la Commission de 9 heures du matin à midi, et de 3 à 5 heures du soir. La prochaine séance est indiquée au lendemain dans la matinée.

Fourth Meeting, held September 11, 1881.

Après s'être rendue au domicile du Sieur Luigi Sabetta, pour y constater et apprécier les dégâts ou déprédations dont il s'est plaint, la Commission est rentrée en séance à 9 heures du matin.

Les réclamations ayant pour objet des titres de créances égarés ou détruits ne seront pas pris en considération.

Toutefois, comme ces actes ont dû être légalement enregistrés chez les notaires qui

les ont passés et chez le Cadi de Sfax, et que les registres de ce magistrat sont intacts, la Commission propose qu'il soit fait auprès du Gouvernement du Son Altesse le Bey telle démarche à qui de droit afin d'obtenir que toutes les factures soient jointes aux intéressés pour se faire délivrer une expédition des actes en question.

2. La Commission décide, en outre, à l'unanimité, qu'il n'est pas de sa compétence d'examiner les réclamations qui auront pour objet les propriétés ou les bestiaux placés en dehors des dépendances immédiates de la ville.

3. Enfin, la Commission décide que M. le Gouverneur de Sfax sera prié de lui faire délivrer par le notaire Tunisien attaché à la Douane, un relevé présentant la valeur totale de marchandises de toute nature importées et exportées par les réclamants pendant les dix-huit mois précédents. Puis, en attendant le complément de renseignements, qui lui est nécessaire pour émettre un avis sur les demandes des Sieurs Luigi Sabetta et William Carleton, la Commission entend le Sieur Giorgio Tapia au sujet des réclamations qu'il a présentées.

La séance est levée à 5 heures, et la continuation de l'enquête remise à demain 8 heures du matin, pour l'audition du Sieur Carleton, et du Sieur Robino Azouar, sujet Autrichien, et du Sieur Halifa Zanzuri, sujet Belge.

No. 214.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Lister.—(Received September 23.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, September 22, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 20th instant, relative to the confidential instructions which should be issued to Captain Tryon as a member of the Sfax Commission, and I am to request you will inform Earl Granville that directions in accordance with his Lordship's wishes have this day been transmitted to Captain Tryon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 215.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 81. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 15, 1881.

HADJ MOHAMMED BARGASH, a son of Cid Mohammed Bargash, who has just arrived from Rabat, where his father has remained since his return from the Court, called upon me yesterday. He informed me, confidentially, that ~~the Sultan~~ by the Sultan to proceed to Europe to make various purchases for His Majesty, and that, after visiting Paris and Brussels, he should go to ~~England~~ ~~France~~ ~~Germany~~ ~~Italy~~ ~~Spain~~ ~~Portugal~~ ~~Belgium~~ ~~Netherlands~~ ~~Denmark~~ ~~Sweden~~ ~~Norway~~ ~~Prussia~~ ~~Austria~~ ~~Hungary~~ ~~Croatia~~ ~~Serbia~~ ~~Romania~~ ~~Greece~~ ~~Turkey~~ ~~Egypt~~ ~~Syria~~ ~~Lebanon~~ ~~Palestine~~ ~~Arabia~~ ~~Yemen~~ ~~India~~ ~~Ceylon~~ ~~Sri Lanka~~ ~~Malta~~ ~~Maldives~~ ~~Andaman~~ ~~Nicobar~~ ~~Burma~~ ~~Siam~~ ~~Thailand~~ ~~Siamese~~ ~~Laos~~ ~~Cambodia~~ ~~Siamese~~ ~~Indo-China~~ ~~China~~ ~~Tibet~~ ~~Mongolia~~ ~~Korea~~ ~~Japan~~ ~~Philippines~~ ~~Formosa~~ ~~Macao~~ ~~Hongkong~~ ~~Shanghai~~ ~~Canton~~ ~~Peking~~ ~~Tientsin~~ ~~Harbin~~ ~~Manchuria~~ ~~Amur~~ ~~Ussuri~~ ~~Primorye~~ ~~Sea of Japan~~ ~~Yellow Sea~~ ~~Korea~~ ~~Japan~~ ~~Philippines~~ ~~Formosa~~ ~~Macao~~ ~~Hongkong~~ ~~Shanghai~~ ~~Canton~~ 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steps, he believed, had been taken to prevent an infraction on that coast of their fiscal laws.

I observed that rumours had reached me of the disturbances at Ait Amran and Wad Noon, and that there was a rising against Cid Hosein. He said it was true, and a Jew, with a smile, "Perhaps the Sultan has ordered the inhabitants to discover a Grief who is supposed to have entered into an unholy pact with the French." He added, "You may depend upon it, if French traders or others land there, they will meet with opposition."

I asked Hadj Mohammed Barqai whether he had heard, at the time he was at the Court, that the Sultan had acceded to the request of the French Government that their troops should be allowed to cross the Morocco frontier in pursuit of Ben Amena, or of other Chiefs hostile to the French. He replied, "I am well informed upon that subject, and I can assure you the Sultan has not given his consent that French troops should cross the frontier, on the contrary, he has declared he could not give his consent, though His Majesty will be careful not to send troops to oppose the French forces if they cross the frontier."

I observed that it was alleged the French intended to penetrate as far as Figig. He said they had heard of this report, and that, if true, it was much to be deplored, as the consequences might be very serious. All the tribes, he said, would be sure to join in opposing the French, and that complications might ensue. He added that he could hardly suppose the French Government will involve itself in fresh difficulties, having already the insurrections of Tunis and Algeria on their hands, and for the same reasons he could not suppose they would sanction the proceedings of the French Consul at Mogador, or of the French merchant Cohen, in attempting to open a trade on the south-west coast, in a district within the acknowledged territory of the Sultan, without having sought for and obtained His Majesty's previous consent.

Hadj Mohammed Bargash informed me that the French Minister had applied to the Sultan for permission to allow a French merchant to export wheat to Algiers in consequence of the dearth in that Colony, but that the request had not been acceded to, as the wheat crop in Morocco had failed, and prices of all grain are unusually high.

He informed me that his father had been received very kindly by the Sultan and restored to favour, and that the Vizir who had been his enemy was no longer in the Majesty's favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—At the request of Hady Mohammed Hargash, I gave him a letter of introduction to Mr. G. Fleming, one of the firm of Messrs. Robinson and Fleming, the loan contractors.

J. H. D. H.

No. 216.

M. Rogers to her Committee. (Received September 24, 1868.)

{ Deflagrations }

Tunis, September 24, 1881

It is entirely untrue, as stated in a telegram published in London, that the Hanafi Court has decided case against Levy or taken any further proceedings about Entida. As a matter of fact, notwithstanding illegal sentence of Meleki Court, Levy's possession is still undisturbed.

No. 217.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 16, 1891

WITH reference to the despatches of the Commercial series marked in the margin, - on the subject of the opening of a port for trade on the south-west coast, and to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from

* No. 6, Slave Trade, Confidential, April 2, 1881. No. 205.

the Vizir Mokhtar, which was delivered to me by a Moonshee officer after my interview with Hadji Mohammed Bargash, the son of the Minister

This communication tends to confirm the supposition that the object the Sultan has in view is to possess two steamers to enable him to provision the troops which may be marched into Socos to establish his authority there, and to open a port for the purposes of trade. The intrigues of the French Consul at Mogador with the Chief of Ait Amran, and the alleged engagement reported to have been entered into by that Chief to allow French vessels to trade on that coast, have no doubt led the Sultan to take active and decisive steps to follow the advice which, in pursuance of the instructions I had received, I had given His Majesty two years ago to open a port for trading purposes as being the best means to check the frequent attempts that have been made by foreigners to engage in an illicit traffic with the inhabitants of that coast.

With reference to that passage in the Viceroy's letter where he observes that "the Sultan had not yet attempted to carry a force to the project of opening a port on the Soudan coast in consequence of the distress amongst the inhabitants caused by the dearth during the last two years, I have no doubt that this is one of the chief reasons, for wherever the Sultan marches the population of the districts through which he passes are required to furnish provisions for his troops, notice being given beforehand to them of the Sultan's approach. The authority of the Sultans of Morocco over the tribes dwelling between Agadeer and Wad Draa has been for the last fifty years of a very doubtful character, except as the "Caliph Allah," and if an attempt was made to levy provisions for marching troops through those districts to open a port as proposed, the tribes would probably refuse to allow the troops to pass.

I understand, therefore, why His Majesty desires to send provisions by sea, and perhaps also the troops who are to be employed in this expedition.

Further research of a letter I have received from C. J. Boulicker, which confirms the report* of Consul Payton regarding the proceedings of the French in the district of Ad Ber Agha in Suway, and that all investigations taken place, are in the authority of the Chief, Cid Hosein.

It is provided to the contrary to the contrary by the Vizier regarding the intention of the Sultan to send provisions for the army of the Sultan, that I have no knowledge of any Treaty stipulations, usage, which would authorize and might require to be granted the right for the subjects of His Majesty to land, man and material, as to part of the Moroccan coast, where the Sultan may desire to provision his forces or a part of the Moroccan fleet, and export to the Sultan's army, as well as to the Sultan's army, in order to prevent any such subject of the Sultan from being sent to the Sultan's army and generally, I will be permitted to say that His Majesty would not approve of any Moorish officers to go to the Sultan's army, and that the Sultan would not allow any Moorish subject or protected subject of any foreign Power to act for the Sultan's army.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

Mohammed ben Alarby ben Mokhtar to Sir J. Drummond Hay

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

29 *Hong-tan*, 1298 (August 26, 1881).

AMONGST the various courses which you have offered us as a remedy for our Lord the Sultan was that of opening a port in the district near Wau on the Red Sea to trade with the plantations who require an outlet and this Majesty deemed upon carrying this project into execution as the advice proceeded from a friendly counsel and that the plantations reacted us of the death that presided in those regions and that the plantations were suffering greatly in consequence; therefore His Majesty, who wished to avoid, at such a moment, imposing upon them any obligations, decided upon awaiting for a more favourable moment, until their state improved and welfare returned.

His Majesty has ordered us to ask your opinion, as from one who is a faithful friend, whether, if grain is exported for the purposes of provisioning His Majesty's forces, and not for the purposes of trade, it would give rise to claims of foreign subjects, and to the establishment of an inconvenient precedent, which might cause others to demand the right of selling grain also in those regions, or whether, as the transaction is solely a Government one, such a pretension cannot be put forward.

* Enclosure in No. 203.

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FELIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

We wish to know also whether usage or Treaties would authorize such a claim. Tell us clearly your opinion, in order that we may acquaint our Sherrefian Lord, who will then write to Cid Mohammed Bargash in order that he may make it known to the Representatives, should there be no objection on account of it occasioning any infringement or giving rise to a demand for an equal privilege.

We thank you beforehand. May your life be prolonged, and may you attain all you desire and tranquillity.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN ALARBY BEN MOKTSAR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

Cid Boobeker to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.)

7 Shawal, 1298 (September 2, 1881).

I HAD already informed you of the affair of the port in Soos and Cohen's proceedings.

An arrangement has since been come to, but no one is to land to engage in trade until officers of the French nation land and guarantee the protection of the inhabitants from being molested by the Sultan.

You may depend upon this information being correct.

There are disturbances in the Soos districts and in Wadnoon and Aarib, and a rising against Cid Hosein el Hashem.

There has been fighting and a general rising.

I shall tell you more verbally when I reach Tangier.

No. 218.

Dr. Arpa to Earl Granville.—(Received September 20, 11.30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic)

I AM leaving for Tunis, via Malta.

Naples, September 20, 1881, 6.5 P.M.

No. 219.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 58.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 20, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch N° 73, 11.12, dated September 12, 1881, regarding the case of Mr. Antonin Missud, a British subject, whose house has been taken forcible possession of by a French military force.

I approve of your having forwarded Mr. Missud's protest through the usual official channel, and I have to state that the protest of its being rejected or not by Her Majesty's Government will, on receiving full particulars and details of the case, be whether it is one that they would be justified in supporting.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 220.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Sir J. P. Russell.—Received September 28.

Sir,

Admiralty, September 26, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter, dated the 18th instant, which has been received from a Captain Tryon, of the "Monarch," at Sfax, reporting the seizure of Her Majesty's ship on the coast of Tunis, and the condition of affairs in connection with the French occupation of the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour

Sir,

"Monarch," at Sfax, September 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that my information up to this date leaves the condition of affairs at Tunis unchanged, with a French column at Zaghouan, and others at Hammam-lymph, Hammamet, Susa, Sfax, and Gabes. The positions are held easily enough, but beyond their range no one can go.

3. Ali Ben Halifa sent a communication to the townspeople here yesterday which was considered to be of sufficient importance for the French force to prepare for an attack to-morrow, and for that part of the Mischite tribes that had submitted to close the town. He is but a few miles off, but it is useless unless he declares that he has submitted, or Moors in the gardens (cultivated grounds) without the city, he is powerless with the means at his disposal, so far as the attack he proposes on the city is concerned, even if the Moors joined him, which is most improbable, and he is far too astute to try it.

5. Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" is stationed at Tunis, and the "Bittern" on the east coast of Tunis, north of the Kerkenahs.

4. Ten battalions are expected to arrive at once at Goletta, other changes, such as General Legerot's replacing M. Roustan, are reported, but I only refer to this, as, long before this arrives, its truth will be proved or disproved.

5. I cannot hear of the arrival of cavalry, a description of force that would, I think, be most valuable in this country, usually so open, and where the force exposed to it, either infantry or mounted, would be quite unequal to meeting them, and where the troops are outmarched three-fifths of daily distance at least.

6. The Sfax Commission continues to sit daily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. TRYON

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 244.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 20, 1881.

THE reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government in the course of the last few weeks from Tunis have been such as to cause them to feel grave apprehension for the safety of the Europeans on the eastern coast of that country.

Nevertheless, for as Her Majesty's Government have been anxious to ascertain the possible evenness of the situation, and the possibility of its being by no means an improbable event, if the present system of warfare should be much longer protracted.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government are anxious about the fate of British subjects residing in those territories in which hostilities are being carried on, and are prepared to send ships of war for their protection, but before taking any action to that effect, they would be glad to be informed by the French Government whether the intelligence received by them is of the same character as that which has reached Her Majesty's Government, according to which whole villages are in open revolution, trade is suspended, and robberies take place up to the very walls of the towns, the crops cannot be sown nor the olives gathered, and a famine is not unlikely to ensue.

If these accounts are corroborated by the French official reports, it is time that steps should be taken for the protection of Europeans, and Her Majesty's Government will await with anxiety the reply of the French Government to this inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

FC 403/22
LETTER WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
PUBLISHERS

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 85. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 21, 1881.

HADJ ABSELAM, the Sherief of Wazan, embarked yesterday on board the "Oran" packet, accompanied by M. Hecquard, the Dragoman of the French Legation.

I am informed that Hadj Abselam is sent by the Sultan on a mission to Cid Solyman Ben Kador, to induce him to return to the Moorish Court, or, at any rate, to refrain from the commission of hostile acts upon French territory. Hadj Abselam takes a large sum of money with him, and it is alleged that 5,000 dollars were also delivered to him at the French Legation.

It is believed that Hadj Abselam will proceed to Oochda, and that the Governor of that province will accompany him to the Kabila of Hamceyan, where Cid Solyman is reported to have assembled a considerable force.

A private correspondent at the Moorish Court informs me confidentially that Cid Solyman has written a further letter to the Sultan repeating his complaint, that the Vazir had withheld the pecuniary allowance which the Sultan had engaged to grant him when, at the instigation of Hadj Abselam, he agreed to desist from making raids upon the French territory and to settle at Fez.

Cid Solyman requests the Sultan to treat kindly a portion of his family which he had left at Fez, and to take an early opportunity of forwarding them in safety to him. He engages, if the Sultan accedes to his request, not to commit any raid upon the Algerine territory, and to refrain the tribes under his control from hostile action towards the French; but, on the other hand, he declares, if the Sultan pays no attention to his request, he will commence hostilities on the Algerine territory and continue to harass the French forces near the frontier, and that, should he be pursued, he will retreat in the direction of Fez, so as to induce the French to follow and attack that city.

The Sultan replied that he had reproved the Vazir for his conduct, and that he was ready to repay Cid Solyman all arrears of his allowance and to give him a liberal donation if he would return to the Moorish Court. The Sultan said he feared to give grounds for offence to the French if he sent his family to him, as they would then suppose that he, Cid Solyman, was acting under his orders when he made his escape; but that, if he would not agree to return to the Court, His Majesty would take an opportunity, when he arrived at the city of Morocco, to show Cid Solyman's family to go on a journey, which would be easy for them to travel in safety to rejoin him. Thus, the Sultan added, would be done on Cid Solyman giving a formal guarantee that he would not join Bou Amema or other Chiefs in aggressions upon the French territory.

My correspondent said he had seen the draft of the Sultan's letter to Cid Solyman.

Since this letter was written a report has reached Tangier that discussions had arisen between Bou Amema and Cid Solyman, as the latter claims to be the rightful Chief of the Oulad Cid Sheikh, and that Bou Amema, who is his cousin, belongs to the younger branch.

A conflict is said to have taken place between the followers of Bou Amema and those of Cid Solyman, when the latter was wounded and his son and a favourite slave were killed.

Bou Amema is said to have retired towards the Desert. If these reports are true, Hadj Abselam may succeed in his mission, and even in inducing Cid Solyman to prevent the tribe of Oulad Cid Sheikh and others from committing further acts of hostility upon the French territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 22, 1881.

THE Sultan has discontinued his progress towards the city of Morocco, and has marched northwards with his army.

By last accounts His Majesty had encamped at Bou Kaseh, in the Province of Asamor, about 50 miles from Mequinez, where the tribes have been for the last fifty years

in a state of revolt, and do not acknowledge the Sultan's authority except as their spiritual Chief.

The Sultan will have a very difficult task in subduing this warlike tribe, I suppose his reason for making the attempt at the present critical moment is that, should complications arise from a French force crossing the Morocco frontier, His Majesty apprehends that the rebels of Azam or may induce other tribes to join in a general insurrection against his authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 28, 1881.

FROM a statement which I have the honour to receive from General Saussier that about 20,000 French troops have landed at the Gambia since the 1st January last. Those disembarked at Conakry, Stax and Bizer, during the same period are estimated at 5,000, and the arrivals at 2,000. If to these numbers be added the number which it is known remained in the country after the last campaign (viz. 8,000), the total force available at the present moment for the general operations of the pending operations will be found not to exceed 37,000 men. On this number, however, 12,000, under the immediate command of General Lagouette and Major de la Motte, are engaged for orders to march in the direction of Kaouara.

The country continues in the same disturbed condition as when (by my despatches No. 95 of the 5th and No. 90 of the 14th instant) I reported upon the military movements which were then taking place.

General Sahattier's situation in the neighbourhood of Zaghlwan, which I have represented as one of difficulty and even temporary isolation, has been relieved by the reopening of his communications with this place and the arrival of considerable reinforcements.

Sy Ali Bey's force, which had advanced to Testoor, a small town about 100 miles distant from Tunis, was, on the 25th instant, attacked by a large body of Arab insurgents (circa 5,000) who, after an engagement of five hours, were repulsed.

A second attack, made by the same Arabs yesterday, has rendered the position of the Hen-Apparent so critical that reinforcements, accompanied, as I understand, by two battalions of French troops, are being dispatched with all haste to his assistance.

The losses sustained by the Bey's troops in the first engagement amounted to two killed and twenty-five wounded. What they lost in the second and more serious one is not yet known.

In the Susa district a good deal of skirmishing has occurred during the past fortnight between Arabs and French troops, the former invariably retreating after discharging their guns. In this way a large village, called Jenel, was abandoned by its inhabitants, and ransacked by the French of everything that was worth carrying away, such as poultry, corn, &c.

General Saussier, the Commander-in-chief, arrived here some days ago from Algiers, and returned yesterday.

While writing on the subject of the military operations, it is my painful duty to call attention to the now frequent occurrence of isolated cases of murder. Eight Mulatres and three Italians have been killed by Arabs during the last two months. The last two cases are those of Roderico Debono and Felice Samuel (Maltese), who were assassinated by Arabs, without any apparent provocation, and for no other probable cause than that they were Christians. I have this day seen the Bey, who has promised to act with energy in the matter. As he is now, however, virtually at war with all his subjects, I fear his power is only limited.

The present state of things is a sad contrast to what prevailed here for many years, during which not a single case of this kind of murder occurred. The effects of the invasion are becoming more and more evident, and I fear the fall of Kaouara will not improve matters. It appears to me that the civilizing results of the expedition are yet far in the distance, but unless, in the face of passing events, some more energetic and satisfactory measures are taken to insure public security, the responsibility of France as regards this country will daily assume a more serious character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 224

Statement of French Troops landed at the Goletta from the 11th July to the 22nd September, 1881, inclusive.

| Date | Name of Transport | N. of Men |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------|
| July 1 | Transport "Intercube" | 2,000 |
| 16 | Steamship "V. de..." | 120 |
| 18 | "St. Vincent" | 426 |
| 20 | Transport "V. de..." | 100 |
| Aug. 2 | Steamship "V. de Madrid" | 100 |
| 2 | "K. de..." | 185 |
| 3 | "V. de l'Arcadie" | 707 |
| 2 | "M. de..." | 618 |
| 3 | Transport "V. de..." | 400 |
| 4 | Steamship "V. de..." | 518 |
| 27 | "V. de..." | 240 |
| 29 | "V. de..." | 100 |
| Sept 1 | Transport "Intercube" | 1,000 |
| 6 | "V. de..." | 87 |
| 9 | Steamship "V. de..." | 786 |
| 9 | "K. de..." | 700 |
| 10 | "V. de..." | 7 |
| 10 | Transport "V. de..." | 100 |
| 11 | Steamship "V. de Madrid" | 400 |
| 17 | Transport "V. de..." | 400 |
| 17 | Steamship "V. de..." | 700 |
| 19 | "V. de..." | 881 |
| 22 | Transport "V. de..." | 75 |
| 22 | Steamship "V. de..." | 200 |
| 22 | Transport "V. de..." | 100 |
| Total | | 12,995 |

No. 225.

Mr. Reads to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, October 3, 1881.

M. ROUSTAN arrived here yesterday from France. Information just received that the station of Wadzarga on the French railway was burnt last night by insurgents, and ten European employees there, including three Maltese, murdered.

No. 226

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 875.)
My Lord,

Paris, October 4, 1881.

IN my despatch No. 869 of yesterday I had the honour to report to your Lordship that I had sent to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire a note verbal respecting the state of the east coast of Tunis, and of the necessity of sending British ships of war there for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me this morning that he had already entered into communication regarding this note with the Minister of War and the Minister of Marine and Colonies, and that he would, without delay, send me a written answer containing full information respecting the matter in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 227.

Mr. Reads to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, October 4, 1881.

I FIND there were five or six Maltese massacred at Wadzarga. The French have been obliged to retire on Medjez, leaving bodies of victims in hands of the insurgents.

Arabs are assembling in different parts of Regency to resist.
French occupation of Tunis spoken of as imminent.

No. 228.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 891.)
My Lord,

Paris, October 6, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 946 of the 30th ultimo, and to my despatches No. 884 of the 3rd instant, and No. 875 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a note which I have just received from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire and which contains his answer to the representation which I made to him by your Lordship's order on the subject of the necessity of sending British ships of war to the east coast of Tunis for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects.

The note gives details respecting the military and naval forces of France in that quarter, and after observing that the number of British ships does not appear indispensable, expresses a hope that they may not be sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 228.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 5 Octobre, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

JE m'empresse de vous transmettre des détails précis sur les ressources dont nous disposons actuellement en Tunisie, et qui peuvent, tout en servant aux opérations militaires, concourir à assurer la sécurité des Européens qui habitent la Régence.

En navires agissant sur les côtes pour y maintenir l'ordre, nous en avons onze, dont un cuirassé portant le pavillon du Contre-Amiral Conrad, deux autres cuirassés de moindre force, un croiseur, un aviso, quatre canonnières, deux transports, dont un hôpital.

A terre et dans l'intérieur, nous occupons Tabarka, Bizerte, Sousse, Sfax, Gafes, Djerbah. Le Kef, Ghardimaou, Fernana, Béja et Ain Drahaïr. Dans les autres points, l'occupation a lieu par un ou deux bataillons, quelquefois par trois, comme à Gabès et au Kef, et même par une brigade, comme à Sousse.

Je suis entré dans ces détails afin de calmer autant qu'il dépend de moi les appréhensions que mes collègues ressentent Lord Granville pour les nationaux Anglais en particulier et pour les Européens en général. Nous sommes intéressés plus qu'une autre Puissance à ce que la protection des étrangers dans la Régence soit aussi efficace que possible. Notre expédition rendue nécessaire pour les causes que tout le monde connaît nous impose des devoirs étroits; et nous sommes bien décidés à les remplir. La marche sur Kairouan n'entraîne, nous le savons, les désordres dont nous souffrons plus directement que qui que ce soit, et qui ont leur centre d'attraction est engagé à les faire cesser.

J'espère que ces explications et de nature à satisfaire le Cabinet Anglais, et qu'elles reconstruiront complètement aux craintes exprimées dans la note verbale que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me remettre avant-hier. Pour le moment, je ne puis donc pas que la coopération annoncée soit indispensable, et nous nous flattons qu'il n'y sera pas donné suite.

Agréer, &c.
(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by M. Reisman, October 7, 1881.

LE 21 Septembre dernier, un sujet Italien, nommé Dominique Orfeo, fut surpris par des cavaliers Arabes sur la route de Tunis à Geddida et tué d'une façon sauvage. C'est là, en peu de jours, le second meurtre de sujets Italiens, et tout fait craindre que ce ne soit pas le dernier.

Une demande d'indemnité des parents de la victime devra être incessamment transmise au Gouvernement du Bey par le Consul d'Italie à Tunis.

Comme le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique se trouve, par suite du massacre de quelques Maltais, dans une situation analogue à celle du Consul Royal d'Italie, le Gouvernement Italien pense que les démarches pour obtenir des indemnités donneraient sans doute un résultat plus prompt et plus satisfaisant, si les deux Agents Consulaires recevaient des instructions identiques quant à la manière de procéder.

A cet effet, le Chargé d'Affaires d'Italie a l'honneur de prier son Excellence le Comte Granville de vouloir bien lui faire connaître son avis, soit quant à la question de principe, soit quant à la procédure pratique qu'il y a lieu de prescrire aux Consuls.

Londres, le 6 Octobre, 1881.

No. 230.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 375.)

My Lord,

Rome, October 7, 1881.

I UNDERSTOOD from Baron Blanc yesterday that instructions had been sent to the Italian Ambassador in London to speak to your Lordship respecting the recent massacre of British and Italian subjects at Oued Zergha in Tunis, and to ascertain what course, in your Lordship's opinion, should be taken by the two Governments with reference to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 231.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10, 6 P.M.)

(No. 98.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, October 10, 1881 3 P.M.

WHILEST I write the occupation of this city by French troops is taking place. The measure is wholly created for. Outside the city presence of French troops is more useful than inside, where a disturbance of reputation has been taken place. Effect on natives must be serious, all hope of honorable settlement of Tunisian question disappearing with this military occupation.

Tunis Government ought to be in my power, held responsible for consequences. Without your Lordship's instructions I do not record any protest.

No. 232.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 96.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 1, 1881.

M. ROUSTAN arrived here yesterday from France.

The station of Wad Zarga, on the Tunis and Bone-Guelma Railway, has been burnt down by insurgent Arabs, who put to death ten European employés, including three Maltese.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 97.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 3, 1881.

THE number of Maltese massacred at Wad Zarga appear to be five or six.

The French were obliged to fall back on Mzes-el-bab, leaving the bodies of the victims in the hands of the insurgents.

Arabs are reported to be assembling in various parts of the Regency for the purpose of resisting the advance of French troops. For occupation of this city by French troops is said to be imminent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 234.

Mr. Swainson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 11.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 10, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary to the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch dated the 23rd ultimo, with its inclosures, which has been received from Captain Tryon (Her Majesty's ship "Monarch"), Senior Officer on the coast of Tunis, and British Representative on the International Commission at Sfax, respecting the decision that has been arrived at by the Commission to the effect that "claims for debt, legal proofs of which have been lost or destroyed, will not be considered."

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. N. SWAINSON

Inclosure 1 in No. 231.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty

Sir,

"Monarch," at Sfax, September 23, 1881.

WITH reference to the Sfax Commission, I have the honour to report that it has decided not to deal with "adoul" (debts).

2. For the purpose of affording information on this subject, I put a series of questions to Mr. Galea, Vice-Consul of Sfax, an intelligent person, and I append to this his replies.

3. The Resolution of the Commission is to effect that claims for debt, legal proofs of which have been lost or destroyed, will not be considered. However, such transactions, to be legal, should have been registered by the notaries who have sanctioned them, as well as by the Cadi of Sfax, and since the registers remain intact in the house of this Magistrate, the Commission proposes that the proper steps should be taken by the Government of the Bey to enable every facility to be given to creditors to obtain copies of such registers.

I beg to mention that it will have to be carefully considered how far it is expedient that this should be carried out, so that, in the event of a failure, the creditors should recover an equivalent for lost papers of great value to them, and which remain with the notaries, and, of late years, with the Cadi also, still on the other hand, if copies are indiscriminately given and are legally not used and made void, a man who has a copy of a portion of his debt will be placed in a position of great disadvantage, as he will be unable to pay his debts with the creditor. The fact that a debt ("adoul") is paid wholly or in part, is not entered on a paper the creditor holds, and not on any register kept by Cadi or notary.

5. I write especially on this subject, because I feel that it is one that will be the subject of appeal. From my point of view, it is impossible for this Commission to deal with "adoul." Hereafter, many claims on this account may be settled between creditor and debtor in the usual way; at this moment there are a large number of cases where the creditors are present, but the debtors are in revolt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 234.

Vice-Consul Galea to Captain Tryon.

Sir,

Sfax, September 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated the 18th September current, with sheet of questions regarding "adoul" inclosed.

In reply, I have the honour herewith to inclose sheets with answers to your questions and legal explanations regarding "adoul."

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. GALEA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 234.

Legal Explanations regarding Moorish Contracts called "Adoul."

Q 1. WHAT are "adoul"? Describe them.—A. The Arabic word in the singular is "ad la," the Arabic word in the plural is "adoul."

The word "adela" means a contract written out by two notaries, who must be possessed of diplomas of the Bey. "Adoul" apply to all business transactions, such as debts, contracts of partnerships, mortgages, &c. In the "adoul" the notaries state that they are witnesses that such and such a Moor or Arab confesses to be debtor to or to have contracted with such a Moor or European with or without a mortgage or pledge, or token of which the notaries place their own signatures and peculiar marks on the "adoul." The notaries state in the "adoul" all the conditions that are agreed upon between the parties, and they deliver the "adoul" to the creditors.

According to a law that has been in force for about fourteen years back, viz., since the Moorish year 1224, "adoul" must be written on stamped paper. They are the only valid evidence of a debt before the local authorities.

As an example, a European possessed of sheep or other animals desires to deliver them over to an Arab to take charge of them. He wishes perhaps at the same time to make partnership with the Arab as far as the profits or losses are concerned. He calls the Arab before two notaries. The Arab declares that he takes charge of the animals on consideration of receiving half the profits and paying half the losses. The notaries make a statement of this on an "adoul" and deliver the "adoul" to the European while the animals are taken charge of by the Arab. When the European sells a portion of the flock or drove, he calls the Arab, and in his presence writes on the back of the "adoul" what has been deducted from the number of animals. When the European proprietor has disposed of all the flock he will have to show the "adoul" to the Arab and tear out of it his portion of the profits.

As a second example, a European wishes to borrow money of an Arab with or without a pledge or mortgage. The European takes the Arab to two notaries, and the latter write down in their "adoul" or record book what the Arab says that hears on the agreement, and in this way they register on their book a statement that such and such an Arab is debtor to the European so much money, and that he is bound to pay this amount within a certain period. The Arab takes his money and is free to go. The creditor has to provide a stamped paper of value according to the amount involved in the agreement. He takes this paper to the notaries; they write out the "adela" on it and deliver it to the creditor. They at the same time write on their record book that they have completed the "adela."

Q 2. Do they apply to all sorts of property?—A. "Adoul" apply to civil and commercial transactions, excepting immovable property and business transactions. Titles-deeds are called "asend."

Q 3. Do they apply to transactions between natives?—A. "Adoul" apply to transactions between the Bey's subjects, but not solely so, as appears from Question 4.

Q 4. Do they apply between natives and Europeans?—A. "Adoul" apply as well between natives and Europeans, but only where Europeans are creditors.

Q 5. Do they apply between Europeans?—A. "Adoul" do not apply between Europeans, except only when an "adela" is handed over from one European creditor to another European, in which case the first endorses the "adela" to the second.

Q 6. What document does the creditor retain as a record that money is owing to him?—A. The creditor retains as a record that, for example, money is owing to him, the "adela" which the notaries have delivered to him.

In case the creditor loses the "adela," he may consider that he has lost his claim, because notaries cannot give any copy of any "adela" except in the manner I now proceed to state.

In case of the loss of an "adela," the creditor presents himself to the Cadi and states that he had such and such a document. The Cadi calls the debtor and asks him if he is in debt to such and such a person for such and such a sum. If the debtor agrees and confesses that he is indebted the Cadi orders the notaries to make out another document from their "dafder," or record book, in which they indicate that if the first is found, it (the first) shall be null and void. The practical effect of this law is that, except with debtors of quite extraordinary honesty, the claim lapses and becomes worthless as soon as the original "adela" is lost. In the case of the death of the debtor the creditor who loses an "adela" has no claim against the heirs.

Q 7. Does the debtor retain any paper?—A. The debtor never retains any paper; but see 15.

Q 8. Are they recorded by the notaries?—A. Before making out an "adela" the notaries register all the particulars in a book called a "dafder." These books—"dafder"—are stamped by the Government, and are printed expressly for each town and each village. They have their pages numbered. They commenced to be used on the 15th of Ramadan of the Moorish year 1202—six years ago. When a pair of notaries get a "dafder" from the Agents of the Government in their town, they present it to the Cadi, who writes in the book authorizing the particular pair of notaries to use the book under the Regulations (that are printed on it). When the pair of notaries make out an "adela," they put the number of the folio of the "dafder" on the "adela." Each pair of notaries uses one "dafder."

Q 9. Are they recorded by the Cadi?—A. Since the aforementioned date six years ago, "adoul" have been recorded by the Cadi. At the end of each month a pair of notaries has to give a copy to the Cadi of all the entries that they have made in their "dafder" during the month. Before the 15th of Ramadan, 1202, the Cadi had no Register or Memoranda of any "adoul," or even "asend" (title-deeds, &c.)

Q 10. How long has the law compelling them to be recorded by the Cadi been in existence?—A. The law has existed in its present state since the 15th Ramadan, 1202—six years ago.

Q 11. When the "adela" is paid by the debtor to the creditor, how is it recorded?—A. When the money is paid in full to the creditor, he shows the "adela" to the Cadi, who writes on the back of the "adela" the beginning of the "adela." The essential word is the "adela" (title-deed, &c.)

Q 12. What becomes of the paper when the "adela" is paid?—A. When the "adela" has its beginning torn out, the holder who was creditor is the most old document on record of the transaction.

Q 13. Does the notary who made out the paper record that the transaction is terminated—that the debt is paid?—A. The notary has nothing to do with the "adela" from the time he delivers it to the creditors, and he therefore never receives notice when the "adela" has been paid.

Q 14. Does the Cadi record that the debt is canceled?—A. As in 13, the Cadi has no knowledge of the payment of any "adela."

Q 15. If a payment is made, how is that recorded?—A. In case of a payment or delivery in part or in account, the creditor shows the "adela" to the debtor, and writes on the back (through the paper, from the text of the "adela") the value or quantity received; but this, the proper usage, is not universal, for very many, instead of making a record on the back of the "adela," give receipts on small pieces of paper and many adopt this usage maliciously. Creditors, by this improper usage, which has almost come to be recognized as a fair usage, can get the benefit of any accidental loss of such little receipts, especially when a debtor dies and the creditors claim on the heirs. In consequence of this, one is not sure when one inspects an "adela" whether all the sum is due or not. The proper usage insures certainty in this respect, and is therefore beneficial and fair to the debtor.

Appendix

Notes about "Adoul."

There is no prescription of any "adela" in Tunisian law. An "adela" is therefore valid after the lapse of any number of years. It is extremely desirable, in the

interests of debtors, that they should never be contented with receipts for part payments, but that they should always insist upon seeing the deliveries written upon the back of their "adoul."

Abuse of the "Dafder," or Record Book, of the Notaries

Many merchants have been accustomed to practise the following usage:—The debtor and creditor go to the notaries, and get a contract registered in the "dafder," and then the creditor, instead of immediately taking a stamped paper to the notaries, to get the "adela" made out, lets the contract stand on the notaries' book.

If the affair goes well and the debt is paid, the parties go to the notaries, and declare that the affair is settled, whereupon the notaries write on the "dafder" that they have issued the "adela," and given it to the creditor.

The "adela" is supposed, in fact, to have been issued, and on a future date to have been mutilated, while all the time no stamped paper has been paid for.

If the affair goes badly, the creditor takes a stamped paper of the proper value to the notaries, and gets the "adela" made out, whereupon the notaries write on their "dafder" that they have issued the "adela," and then they have nothing more to do with the affair.

The usage is fraudulent, as both the notaries and the creditor combine to make a valid obligation without paying the Government stamp, a tax of a per cent on the value at stake.

In the case of Sfax many "dafders" must have been lost, and numerous unissued contracts standing on those "dafders" are lost to merchants, who will not have the slightest chance of a claim even against the notaries. Many Europeans who have chima lapsed in this way will say that they had received their "adoul," and that they lost them in the revolution. The notaries who have lost their "dafder" will say that, to the best of their knowledge, all their "dafder" entries were issued as "adoul."

These "dafders" have been useful for detecting false documents, of which many were in circulation previous to the passing of the present laws. The number of notaries necessary for validity was increased from one to two with the same object of putting down false documents.

(Signed) W. M. GALEA,

Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Sfax

Sfax, September 21, 1881.

Captain Tryon, C.B., Senior Naval Officer,
Coast of Tunis, H.M.S. "Monarch," Sfax.

No. 235.

Mr. Roade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11, 1881.)

(No. 99.)

(Telegraphic)

Tunis, October 11, 1881, 11 A.M.

MY Italian colleague has presented to the Bey a solemn and energetic protest against the French occupation of the city of Tunis.

No. 236.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 12.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 12, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to Earl Granville that Commander Pusey (Her Majesty's ship "Bittern") reports by telegram from Gela, dated the 11th inst., that Tunis was occupied by French troops on the 10th instant with the consent of the Bey, and that all is quiet.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 237.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 15.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 14, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, dated on board Her Majesty's ship "Hibernia" on the 11th instant, in reply to the letter from this Department forwarding the confidential instructions for his guidance as a member of the Sfax Commission.

I am to add that these instructions were inclosed in a letter from the Foreign Office, dated the 20th September, which was received at the Admiralty on the 21st, and sent direct to Captain Tryon on the 22nd September.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Helicon," at Sfax, October 1, 1881.

WITH reference to their Lordships' letter of the 22nd ultimo, conveying to me instructions for my guidance as a member of the Commission appointed to inquire into matters which occurred at Sfax, I regret to report that these instructions only reached me on the 2nd October, and just at the termination of the general examination of the English claims, and after every important witness had been examined.

2. I beg to observe there is an unpaid Consul Agent at Sfax, Mr. Leonard, who has held the office for a considerable time, but who has not yet reported specially on his favourability or otherwise, with respect to the claims, as required by the instructions.

3. There is an unpaid Vice-Consul at Sfax, Mr. Galea, who is an able man of business, speaking English, and writing it fairly well; he employs for the firm he represents three English clerks, and has a very extensive correspondence, not only as to Sfax, but as to Sfax and Gela, where his firm have branches.

4. I have been much surprised to find that the witnesses, who are very numerous, and who are very glib, to which a short delay brings a contradiction. Much that has been so written is not capable of proof, and will be said to have done this, or told that, or to have said their words and the facts.

5. I requested Mr. Roade to learn from Mr. Galea, Vice-Consul at Sfax, and Mr. Leonard, the Consul Agent there, to give me every assistance with reference to this inquiry, and he has so far made use of these gentlemen, and they have cheerfully met my views, but they have not given them my confidence.

6. The evidence of the witnesses is so far from being given by the way they think the witnesses give what they think the witnesses they hope to get, and I am not acquainted with any race of people who have a keener appreciation for self-interest. It is too patent that the witnesses are greatly influenced by what they think is best to say to advance their own claims, and it is disadvantageous to examine them on the general question as to who plundered, at the time when inquiries are being made as to their losses.

7. In the Commission itself the feeling has run at times sufficiently high, the excessive sensibility, &c., of the French leads to a desire to swamp what may be adduced against the conduct of the French troops, and even to a feeling of resentment, and the line at times taken by another member produced a tension which was not productive of good, to say the least.

8. The very construction of the Committee, with a military officer, Captain D'Amboise (representing General Logerot), M. Robin (representing M. Roustan), Captain Marquessac (acting under the orders of his Admiral), is, I submit, not unattended with disadvantage.

9. We now have taken all the evidence in support of English claims, excepting perhaps some few who may be recalled as to cases reserved for subsequent consideration.

The Commission will consider next the claims of the subjects of other nations

[1263]

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taken alphabetically; thus, ere long, we may hope the amount we suggest as an indemnity for losses will be fixed.

8. The inquiry, so far, has been conducted with the view to ascertain the value that the Commission should attach to claims for indemnity. Necessarily much evidence connected with the facts that led to the claims have been taken, and the case I rather drew for myself to endeavour to prove was that the town was in good order up to the time of the assault, and was in great disorder two days afterwards, and during these two days the French exclusively were in possession.

9. I have been careful not to express an opinion as to who should pay claims for indemnity.

10. There are some symptoms that it is possible that French military officers will be summoned, and at the last moment, perhaps to testify as to the conduct of the troops, and the consideration of the final Report is almost certain to lead to very considerable discussion.

11. I write thus fully that their Lordships may be able to judge to what extent I have not anticipated the instructions I have the honour to acknowledge.

12. A case occurred to-day which illustrates the difficulty of obtaining evidence, and of the influence brought to bear on witnesses. The question was this:—A Maltese had, through an agent, paid 10,000 piastres to Kamoun a few days before the insurrection broke out. This money was to be laid out in oil; a letter showing that a part of the oil was bought was produced. If the oil had not been bought, it probably would have been held that the Maltese must suffer his loss, but if, on the other hand, the oil had been bought and was in Sfax, and had been wasted by accident during the bombardment, his case would have been held to be good. I took the line that, the money being paid and the oil bought, though not delivered, it was the property of the Maltese. Oil was in Kamoun's store, but some was removed after the capture by persons who had no right to it. A witness (a Moor of position) told Mr. Lennard that he had offered oil to Kamoun for purchase, but Kamoun declined it, saying he had completed his order for 400 metaces of oil, about the amount for which the money had been given. Mr. Lennard, warned by me and previous experience, got two merchants to join him, and made the Moor repeat the story. To-day the Moor was brought up before the Commission, and nothing could extract the evidence from him. Fortunately, Mr. Lennard, with the witnesses he named, was able to substantiate the case, and it is probable that the claimant may get indemnity. Kamoun was the leader of the insurrection, and his property was seized by the Bey. Even Mr. Galea's evidence, so far, has been given with reserve, so far as the general question is concerned.

13. So far as I can see, with reference to the conditions named and numbered on the last page of the letter signed by Mr. Lister—

(1) No colours were hoisted anywhere to distinguish British property.

(2) Property belonging to British subjects was appropriated for the accommodation of troops, &c., and property also was taken in furtherance of military operations.

(3) Refusal to pillage. A thousand interested witnesses could be brought to swear the French troops were immaculate. Those who know the country fear to give evidence in many cases; but I think that the case will be established, but it will mainly be done by statements extracted accidentally, as it were, from witnesses.

It is this point that will lead to a disagreement of opinion when the final Report of the Commission is under consideration; and there will be very great difficulty in framing such a Report as will carry with it unanimity and separate Report of a possible conclusion.

15. With reference to claims for the use of houses, &c., and for the appropriation of stores, &c., by the military, the claimants have been informed they must make their requisitions on the military Departments, and not on the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 238.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 98.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 10, 1881.

THE occupation of this city by French troops is at this moment being carried into effect. I cannot but think that the measure is wholly uncalled for, and that the security of the inhabitants is more likely to be ensured by the presence of French troops in the outskirts of the place than actually within its walls. Since the commencement of the Tunisian difficulty no disturbance of any consequence has occurred in the city. The natives, therefore, to whom the prospect of an honourable settlement of their differences with France appears now to be hopelessly frustrated, are greatly depressed. It appears to me that the Tunisian Government ought to be held responsible for whatever consequences may result from this measure, but without your Lordship's instructions to that effect, I do not record any protest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 239.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 99.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 10, 1881.

A SOLEMN and energetic protest against the French occupation of the city of Tunis has been presented to His Highness the Bey by the Acting Consul-General of Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 240.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 101.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 11, 1881.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 98 of yesterday, announcing the occupation of this city by French troops, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of M. Roustan's Circular informing the foreign Representatives of the occurrence.

Two reasons are assigned by M. Roustan for this occupation:—

1. The necessity of ensuring for the personal security of the European, security of the European colony; and

2. That of executing some strategical or defensive military operation.

Regarding the first of those reasons, I beg to confirm what is expressed in my telegram of yesterday: that, so far as I can form an opinion, nothing has happened to justify a measure which, it appears to me, would have been equally, if not more, effective if the troops had merely occupied the outskirts of the city and surrounding forts, and, as to the second reason, I can only say that, if there be any strategical necessity for occupying the interior of the city, it appears, up to the last few days, to have been overlooked by the French General, who, as understood, had actually prepared to move upon Kairwan without any such preliminary occupation.

In quarters which I have generally found to be well posted in all that concerns the politics of this country, it is believed that the real object of the occupation is that of applying such additional pressure as will bring about an early cession to France of all the territory west of the Mjerda, including the ports of Bizerta and Portofarina and the fertile provinces of Bega and Mater, or, in other words, about one-third of the whole Regency. The remainder of the country, a considerable portion of which is desert and uncultivable land, France, it is thought, will not, in view of the enormous expenditure in which she would thereby be involved, care to overrun and permanently occupy.

How far this view of the case may be relied on your Lordship will, of course, know

far better than I, but I feel it is nevertheless my duty to report what is undoubtedly discussed here with regard to a possible and momentous contingency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 240.

Circular from M. Roustan to Foreign Representatives at Tunis.

Tunis, le 10 Octobre, 1881.

LE Résident Français, Délégué pour les Relations Extérieures de la Régence, a l'honneur d'informer MM. les Représentants des Puissances Étrangères à Tunis, qu'en vertu d'un accord intervenu entre le Gouvernement de la République Française et celui de Son Altesse le Bey, et dans le but d'assurer le maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur, la ville et les forts de Tunis ont été occupés aujourd'hui par les troupes Françaises. Cette occupation a un caractère purement militaire et défensif, et l'Administration Tunisienne continue à fonctionner comme par le passé.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signed) TH. ROUSTAN.

No. 241.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 381.)

My Lord,

Rome, October 13, 1881.

IN an interview I had with M. Mancini yesterday, his Excellency alluded to the Proclamation or Circular of M. Roustan, relative to the occupation of Tunis by French troops, and said that the Italian Consul had not taken notice of that paragraph of it which stated that this measure had been invoked by the Government of France. The Consul, M. Mancini informed me, in telegraphing the Government of France, had stated that he had purposely acted on his own responsibility, and without asking instructions, in order to leave the Government entirely free to act as they pleased in the matter, either to disavow him or approve him.

That morning, M. Mancini added, the French Chargé d'Affaires had called upon him to complain of the Italian Consul as being the only foreign representative who had made any remonstrance, and that he had replied to the Marquis de Revel that he was as yet imperfectly acquainted with the circumstances, and that he would telegraph immediately (which he has since done) to the Italian Consul, to send him the exact text of the communication he had addressed to M. Roustan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 242.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 100.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, October 17, 1881, 1:20 P.M.

NOTICE in "Times" of the 15th that all Consuls here except Italian had recognized necessity of French occupation of this city untrue and without foundation. The same may be said of statement in London newspapers that European residents here are generally pleased with the French occupation.

Expeditionary force, under immediate command of General Saussier, starts for Kairouan this day.

No. 243.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, October 19.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 17 Octobre, 1881.

LA crise Tunisienne vient d'entrer dans une phase nouvelle à la suite de l'occupation de la ville de Tunis par les troupes Françaises.

Le Cabinet de Londres, qui n'a pas hésité dès le début à reconnaître nos droits dans cette question, comprendra les légitimes inquiétudes que nous cause cette occupation provoquée par M. Roustan, en opposition avec le but que la France déclarait poursuivre en envahissant la Tunisie pour châtier les Khoumirs.

No. 244.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget

(No. 428.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1881.

M. RESSMAN, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, has communicated to me a Memorandum stating that on the 21st ultimo an Italian subject, Dominique Orfeo, was surprised by Arab horsemen on the road from Tunis to Godeida and killed in a savage manner; that this was the second murder recorded within a few days, and that there was reason to believe it would not be the last.

A demand from the relations of the deceased for indemnity was to be transmitted to the Bey's Government through the Italian Consul at Tunis.

The Minister observes that as the British Consul is in a position to act on behalf of his Italian colleague in consequence of the murder of certain Maltese, it appears to the Italian Government that any steps taken to obtain indemnity would, no doubt, result with a more prompt and satisfactory result if the two Agents were to receive identical instructions.

M. Resman was accordingly instructed to ascertain the views of Her Majesty's Government both on the matter of principle, and any practical measures to be prescribed to the Consuls.

M. Resman was informed, in reply, that the matter would receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

As yet, however, no similar representations from the relatives of any British subjects who may have come by their death under similar circumstances have reached this Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 245.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 100.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 17, 1881.

THERE is no foundation for the statement, which appears in the "Times" of the 15th instant, that all the foreign Consuls here, with the exception of the Italian, had recognized the necessity of the French occupation of this city, and the report published in some of the London papers that that occupation had met with the approval of the European colony generally is equally untrue.

A column of 5,000 troops, under the immediate command of General Saussier, will start this day for Kairouan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden. — (Received October 22.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 22, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter dated the 13th instant, which has been received from Captain Tryon, (Her Majesty's ship 'Monarch'), the Senior Naval Officer on the coast of Tunis, and British Representative on the Sfax Commission, respecting the continued occupation by French troops of certain houses belonging to Italian and English subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 246.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

"Monarch," Sfax, October 13, 1881.

I BEG to mention that some few houses belonging to both Italian and English subjects are still occupied by French forces. I will name two particular cases, that of Mr. Pietro Gili, a British subject, whose house is occupied by the Colonel Commandant, Colonel Jamais, and is injured to some extent by shell. Mr. Gili has repeatedly requested that his property may be restored to him; he has appealed to the Colonel Commandant, to the Commission, and his appeals have been referred to Tunis. The same applies to the case of Madam Rosa Avvocato, an Italian subject, whose house is occupied, and who appealed to-day to the Commission. She was informed by the President that it had no authority or power to deal with the matter, and that all that was possible had been done by it, and that in the name of the Commission he had written recently to the Minister Resident, M. Roustan, on the subject, to endeavour to come to some settlement.

2. The French occupied, on the taking of Sfax, many houses and stores belonging to British subjects. In no case that I can hear of have any papers or documents been given to the owner.

3. Mr. Gili, when last before the Commission, in his proper turn to make a claim, put in one for the total value of the house and furniture, which he is, I believe, willing to sell. The Commission decided that it could not deal with the case; it was not one of a total loss, and Mr. Gili seems to be unwilling to put in a claim modified by the reduction of the property that is not lost or destroyed, and of which he was not yet in possession. He seems to think if he did he would be debarred from making further claims should depreciation of property continue to take place. Being without his house, his family have been detained at Malta.

4. A decision on this case has been deferred so long, though I still hope that the latest appeal to Tunis may bring some orders very shortly—some acknowledgment or promise to pay at least—that I have thought it best to mention the matter. I may add the claim is not disputed.

5. I inclose copy of correspondence on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON

Inclosure 2 in No. 246.

Captain Marquessac to Lieutenant-Colonel Dubuche.

Le 15 Septembre, 1881.

L'INCERTITUDE où sont les propriétaires de plusieurs maisons occupées par nos officiers ou soldats sur la durée de cette occupation, ne leur permet de nous présenter une note complète de leurs réclamations, et retarde, par suite, l'accomplissement de notre mission.

J'ai, en conséquence, cher Colonel, de vous prier, au nom de la Commission, de vouloir bien nous faire savoir s'il a été prise une décision quelconque au sujet de ces

immeubles, c'est-à-dire, si l'on a fini la durée de leur occupation et si les propriétaires seront indemnisés.

(Signé) MARQUESSAC.

Inclosure 3 in No. 246.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dubuche to Captain Marquessac.

Le 16 Septembre, 1881.

Commandant,

LES maisons que nous occupons encore dans la ville Européenne nous sont indispensables pour le logement de l'Etat-Major et de divers services; il ne sera pas possible de les évacuer tant que durera l'occupation Française, au reste nous avons l'ordre du Commandant supérieur de ne plus évacuer aucun immeuble.

Les maisons encore occupées se trouvant dans la situation ci-dessus indiquée sont en bien petit nombre; ce sont les maisons Gili (Etat-Major), Veuve Avvocato (Trésor et Intendance), Tapia (ambulance), Israël Zira (offices divers), plus quelques magasins pour les besoins de l'Administration.

Le Commandant en requérant ces immeubles n'a pas fait connaître son avis au sujet des indemnités ultérieures, mais il me paraît naturel que le principe et le droit de ces indemnités ne sauraient être rejeté, et que c'est à la Commission d'Enquête qu'il appartient d'en fixer justement les limites.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) E. DUBUCHE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 246.

Captain Marquessac to Lieutenant-Colonel Dubuche.

Le 17 Septembre, 1881.

JE vous remercie au nom de la Commission de la promptitude que vous avez bien voulu mettre à répondre à ce que j'ai écrit. Les maisons occupées par nos troupes à Sfax.

La Commission est d'avis que l'autorité civile n'est pas compétente pour régler la question d'indemnité et de vous prier, par mon intermédiaire, de vouloir bien charger de ce soin l'autorité militaire.

Inclosure 5 in No. 246.

Mr. Gili to Mr. Leonard.

M. l'Agent Consulaire,

Sfax, le 15 Septembre, 1881.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer, Monsieur, que la maison dans laquelle demeure actuellement M. le Colonel est de ma propriété, et par suite de telle occupation je souffre des grandes pertes, et je suis obligé de m'éloigner de ma famille, qui se trouve actuellement à Malte.

Moi je demeure dans ce moment-ci avec mon beau-frère, M. Salvatore Seikel, qui, d'ailleurs, ayant une petite maison, il se trouve dans l'impossibilité de faire venir sa famille de Malte.

En outre le magasin, qui se trouve dessous la maison, il est également occupé par les militaires, qui en ont fait un bureau. Le dit magasin ne continuera à rien faire, et que par suite de cette occupation il ne peut plus faire de commerce.

Enfin, tant que la dite maison et magasin seront occupés par M. le Colonel et ses subalternes, je me trouve dans l'impossibilité de vérifier les pertes souffertes.

Je vous prie donc, M. l'Agent Consulaire, de vouloir bien transmettre [sic] en priant de vouloir bien me remettre mes propriétés.

Le Sousigné, &c.

(Signé) PIETRO GILI.

Inclosure 6 in No. 246.

M. Mattei to Mr. Leonard:

Monsieur et Collègue,

LE Lieutenant-Colonel M. Dubuche m'a fait part et me charge de vous dire que Mr. Gili est libre d'entrer dans sa maison à tout instant, d'y faire tout le sorte d'inventaire, d'y prendre même les objets dont l'autorisation, mais quant à lui remettre la maison ou le magasin, qu'il ne peut le faire, attendu qu'ils la sont indispensables pour son service.

Sfax, le 21 Septembre, 1881.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. H. MATTEI

Inclosure 7 in No. 246.

Captain Marquessac to M. Roustan.

M. le Ministre,

Le 7 Octobre, 1881.

LES travaux de la Commission sont retardés par l'incertitude où sont plusieurs résidents étrangers de Sfax au sujet des décisions que prendra l'Administration Militaire relativement aux immeubles qu'elle occupe encore.

Ces résidents déclarent qu'ils ne sauraient présenter la note complète de leurs réclamations avant de connaître le montant de l'indemnité qui leur sera allouée en conséquence de la réquisition qui leur est imposée.

M. le Colonel Janais ne paraissant pas en mesure de donner lui-même satisfaction à cette demande la Commission a qu'il s'agit de l'indemnité sur ce point, vous serez très obligée, M. le Ministre, de vouloir bien lui prêter votre haut concours auprès de qui de droit afin de hâter la solution de cette difficulté.

Agéez, &c.
(Signé) MARQUESSAC.

No. 247.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25, 8 A.M.)

(No. 101. Confidential)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, October 24, 1881, 10:20 P.M.

INTELLIGENCE has [reached] my Italian colleague that the Sfax Commission of Inquiry has been dissolved by the abrupt retirement of the French member.

No. 248.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 25.)

(Confidential)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 25, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the decypher of a telegram dated the 24th instant, from Captain Tryon, from Sfax, reporting the abrupt closing of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 248.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

Sfax, October 24, 1881

REGRET to have to report that the President has abruptly closed the Commission the French members withdrawing.

I do not yet know the precise reason, but the reason assigned is an alleged difference of opinion between the members of the Commission.

I propose to remain at Sfax, if the other members remain, for orders.

No. 249.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 928.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 20, 1881

I HAVE the honour to state that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, informing me that, in pursuance of telegraphic instructions from Constantinople, three battalions of infantry started by special train for Dedagatch on the 18th instant.

Their destination is supposed to be Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN

No. 250.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 24, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 5th October, 1881, at Sfax, reporting the condition of affairs in Tunis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Helicon," at Sfax, October 3, 1881.

1. I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 25th September, I sent Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" to Tunis, to act as Senior Officer there till the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Thunderer" at the port.

2. Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" was sent to Malta, and has been sent for her relief. Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" is now at Sfax, where she will be sent to visit the ports, and to see that the French are not allowed to do anything.

3. On the 1st instant Her Majesty's ships "Thunderer," "Helicon," and "Decoy" arrived here. The "Thunderer" and "Decoy" communicated with the vessel at Tunis by signal only.

4. On the 30th Her Majesty's ship "Monarch" left for Malta.

5. On the 5th instant Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" left Sfax, where she is to visit, weather permitting, Mehednah and Mehednah, and to see that the French are not allowed to do anything.

6. A very considerable number of French troops has been sent here, about 1,400 men, and they are now at Sfax, where they are to see that the French are not allowed to do anything.

7. Iron tanks and cisterns are expected at Gabes from France, to receive rain-water; some years very little falls. Water at present is conveyed there in native boats from great distances, but in consequence of insufficient quantities, and the troops are still suffering much from sickness, which is mainly attributed to the water.

8. Manzel has been torpedoed and destroyed, and there is no safety outside the French camp. In fact, the Arabs hover around and harass the French as much as they can. Recently the French went to the top of the Caid's house to see the French from the walls of the town at predatory Arabs.

9. On the 3rd and 4th the French troops went out a few miles to cover some workmen who are engaged on the water-way to the cisterns, which are very low, and on each occasion they met hostile Arabs; a skirmish ensued; the French lost a few horses and the Arabs two or three on each occasion, and have some wounded—they say about 200 horsemen and 300 foot Arabs on the last occasion.

(1268)

20

10. The condition of the country is in no way improved; disorder reigns everywhere, and life is less safe.

11. I sent Her Majesty's ship "Decoy," on the 4th, to Malta, with despatches in reply to a letter I received conveying me instructions for my guidance from the Foreign Office relative to the Sfax Commission, which only arrived on the 2nd October. I have directed her to coal and return here.

12. A fortnight, I trust, will see the termination of the Commission, so far as evidence as to claims for reclamations are concerned. I presume then the evidence as to general questions will be taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 251.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, October 25, 1881.

WITH reference to my letter of the 22nd instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of Earl Granville, a letter, dated the 16th October, from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," forwarding additional correspondence with reference to the case of Mr. Pietro Gili, whose house is still occupied by the French in Tunis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 251.

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Monarch," at Sfax, October 16, 1881.

I BEG to forward additional correspondence with reference to the case of Mr. Pietro Gili, whose house is still occupied by the French, in continuation of my letter of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 251.

Mr. Gili to Consul-General Reade.

(Translation)

Sir,

I AM forced to forward to you this petition in order to inform you that a house and an office of mine are presently occupied by the French Colonel.

At my reiterated requests, transmitted through our Consular Agent, Mr. Leonardi (copies inclosed), the said Colonel at last answered that he was ready to hand over to me only the furniture which was necessary to me (copy of this answer also inclosed).

In case, however, my house is not handed over to me, I am unable to receive the furniture, as I have no other locality where to place it. Besides this, I am unable to establish the damages done to the furniture, owing to its daily deterioration, having no confidence in the servants of the said Colonel.

Therefore, I cannot receive my furniture if my house is not placed at my disposal at the same time.

My numerous family is at present at Malta, and I cannot send for them, as I am deprived of my dwelling-place, which fact causes me a great deal of expense.

I add, for your guidance, that a brother-in-law of mine kindly offered a house to the said Colonel, who has thought fit to use it as a club for the officers, which has made a great impression on me.

At this place houses are not wanting, for near the Moorish quarters there are many. Why does not the Colonel transfer his business to that place? Why does he not make use of that which he has transferred into a club.

Captain Tryon, of the English frigate "Monarch," knowing the opinion of the International Commission, has advised me to forward to you the present petition.

I avail myself of your usual kindness to beg you will accept the course you think fit in this case, and hope that my desire will be taken note of without delay, and for which your petitioner will ever pray.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PIETRO P. GILI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 251.

Consul-General Reade to Mr. Leonardi.

(Translation)

Dear Sir,

Tunis, October 8, 1881.

REGARDING the house, the cost of which is claimed by Mr. Pietro Gili, I think that, under the present circumstances, Mr. Gili would do well to refer his case, through you, to the International Commission.

I am persuaded that, in acting thus, Mr. Gili will be able to obtain what he wishes.

In case, however, of such action being taken with difficulty, you will be kind enough to inform me of it, so that other means may be found of procuring satisfaction. I herewith inclose a translation in English of Mr. Gili's petition, for Captain Tryon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 252.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 28, 6 P.M.)

(No. 103.)

(Telegraphic)

Tunis, October 28, 1881, 8 A.M.

THE Tunis Representative and French Secretary of the Sfax Commission arrived here yesterday. They must have left that town without waiting for the result of any reference to Paris.

No. 253.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 29, 8 A.M.)

(No. 104.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, October 28, 1881, 8 55 P.M.

INFORMATION was received that Kairwan was occupied by French troops on the 26th. The city was surrendered without resistance.

No. 254.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 101.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 24, 1881.

MY Italian colleague has been confidentially informed that, in consequence of the abrupt retirement of the French members, the Sfax Commission of Inquiry has been dissolved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

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ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

Mr. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 205.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 28, 1881.

AT the interview referred to in my last preceding despatch, the Minister of State spoke at length to me on the question of Morocco. He said he was most anxious that Her Majesty's Government should have the means of exactly appreciating the position of the Spanish Government, both as matters actually stood and as they might eventually stand. The Spanish nation held the most extravagant views about Morocco. They believed that at any moment a Spanish Government, who seriously desired it, could land an army across the water and take permanent possession of the country. That, apart from the military difficulties of an enterprise on this scale, which in the popular imagination amounted to nothing, there were European and international considerations to be attended to never once occurred to the public mind. Morocco was to them a Spanish, not a European, question, and on this point public feeling was so sensitive and so unreasonable, that a single spark could at any moment suffice to set the entire nation in a blaze and precipitate it into some act of irretrievable folly.

Now there could be no doubt that the late doings of France in Africa had accumulated much smouldering material. The threat of action with Figueras as its "objectif" was dangerous enough. But the distance of Figueras from the vital parts of the Moorish Empire and the difficulty of access to that point from the base of French operations prevented the danger ever assuming an acute character. The general uprising of the tribes to the south of Algeria had now removed all danger from that field, not so, should, on any pretext whatever, France do what was necessary to take action on the sea coast. If the French "objectif" would necessarily be the Cabo del Agua, only a short distance from the Algerian frontier and immediately accessible to the French forces both by sea and land. Now, opposite to the Cabo del Agua, and commanded by it, were the Spanish islands of Chafarnas, and a little further west the Spanish port of Melilla. The occupation of the Cabo del Agua, therefore, would be strategically the direct command of one of the Spanish positions and threatening of the flank of another. It could not be denied that in the public imagination these positions were regarded as outposts in any eventual action that might arise, and that the French "objectif" would have the appearance of an intention to dispute the popular idea of Spain's position towards Morocco, and might prove the spark to a national conflagration which no Government would have it in its power to extinguish. I gathered from what his Excellency hinted, rather than said, that at one time the Spanish Government had reason to believe, from reliable local information they had received, that French forces had been concerted with a view to a movement on the Cabo del Agua.

The point which the Minister of State's conversation led up to was the importance of Her Majesty's Government realizing that the actual Government, on grounds both of internal and external policy, were determined to use every effort to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco becoming a burning question. Spain was in a false position of a country which had been the scene of civil commotions had suffered from the loss of its freedom from all external control, and was in a position to be able to do so. The present Ministry were, one and all, in favour of the *status quo*, and they were determined to do so. It was not to be allowed a foreign country to take possession of Morocco and to do so. Spain, and any step taken in this direction would be taken at the risk of raising the popular passions to an ungovernable point.

It seems to me clear that it was his Excellency's object to suggest that Her Majesty's Government, whose interests as regards the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco were identical with those of Spain, might render a great service to the cause of peace by using its influence, should the danger arise, to prevent any action on the part of France in the direction of the Cabo del Agua.

I observed that these questions being entirely new to me I could express no opinion upon them, but that *provid fater* it seemed to me altogether improbable that France, with so much more than she bargained for on her hands to the east of her African possessions, would enter upon a policy of adventure to the west. I noted with much pleasure his Excellency's eloquent arguments in favour of the necessity, and his assurances in regard to the desire, of maintaining the *status quo*, and I observed to him that it seemed to me that the Government of His Catholic Majesty was in the advantageous position of being able to adopt a policy which, whilst it was of essential importance to Spain herself, would entitle

her to the general gratitude of Europe. Spain was a great Mediterranean Power; her legitimate interests and her necessary influence in Mediterranean questions were recognized by every one. If, during a period of crisis like the present, her Government exercised the full influence to which she had a right, in the interests of peace and the maintenance of the *status quo*, in repressing the spirit of adventure in her own people, and discountenancing it in others, she would win the applause of all Governments and the hearty gratitude and sympathy of the great bulk of the European community, which yearned for peace, and hated above all things the surging up of "burning questions."

The general impression left upon my mind by this conversation, which was a very lengthy one, was that the Marquis de Villalby, who had been a possibly exaggerated fear of the actual danger of the situation, or that, at all events, he wished me to carry away a lively sense of the possible catastrophe which might arise from the Government being placed between the cross-fire of a French demonstration, on the one side, and the passion of the Spanish people in regard to the Moorish question, on the other.

I must, however, beg your Lordship to remember that this was the first time that I had seen the Spanish Minister of State, and I am still wholly ignorant of the mode of thought and expression in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 255.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 2)

(Confidential)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 1, 1881.

WITH reference to my letter of the 25th inst. I have the pleasure of enclosing a copy of a letter from Captain Tryn, of H. M. S. "Seymour," dated 28th October, 1881, in which he has been directed by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the perusal of Earl Granville, a letter dated 23rd October, received from Captain Tryn, detailing the circumstances which led to the termination of the Seymour Commission.

I am to request that these papers will be sent to your Lordship at an early date.

I am, &c.
Signed J. H. B. H. H. H.

Inclosure 1 to No. 255.

Captain Tryn to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential)

Sir,

"Monarch," at St. James, October 22, 1881.

I BEG to report that yesterday forenoon, after the conclusion of some evidence, and a short subsequent conversation, the President of the Commission met with the view of consulting together.

After lunch, at 2 p.m., the President returned, declaring he had an important decision to communicate. Without waiting for our Tunisian colleague, he read a paper but so late that I could not take the paper at that time. A copy is promised. It informed us the French members were determined to retire, and he declared the Commission was dissolved. I requested a list of the cases already settled, and of the Report on that subject that was so nearly settled. The reply was "All is finished."

2. I then presented to him three papers: one containing a list of witnesses that possibly might be required, or a list of books formerly looked upon after they had been made up and sent by the Consul at Algiers. Mr. Leonard, some days after the capture of Sfax; and also Mr. Leonard's evidence, as taken by a French officer at the desire of General Legerot.

3. The termination of the Commission was most abrupt, the French Commissioners leaving the room.

4. It remains to relate in detail what occurred in the forenoon. A copy is enclosed.

[1265]

commencement of the meeting, before work began, a letter was delivered to me by Mr. Leonardi. It was a letter addressed by a Mr. Leadbetter to him, requesting, as he was anxious to go to England, and had already delayed his departure some time, that he might be examined at once, if the Commission desired further evidence from him. This was the proper course for Mr. Leadbetter to take if he had anything to bring before the Commission, namely, to address it through Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Agent. I handed this letter at once to the President, who looked at it, and, on the case being explained to him, said, "Call him." M. Robin demurred, as he has previously done on several other occasions, saying that "he has been heard before; what is the use?" &c.

5. I examined Mr. Leadbetter, and when I had finished, much warmth was exhibited by the French members of the Commission, and the word "fausset" was, with considerable warmth, used by the President, applying it to the evidence given by Mr. Leadbetter. The latter was still in the room, in his place, waiting to be cross-examined. I suggested that he should withdraw, to which the President assented; I said it was hard for a witness to sit and hear such expressions if I was to be disbelieved, let evidence to refute his statement be brought. The President at once said that he did not remember that he was in the room, and I considered the incident to be terminated. This is by no means the first time that a witness had been sharply handled by the President, when he had given evidence that was displeasing to him, notably in the case of Mr. Galt.

6. Mr. Leadbetter was recalled to be cross-examined; no one had further questions to ask. He retired, being told that the Commission had finished with him; this enabled him to proceed to England, as he desired.

7. There was much indignation expressed by the French members of the Commission, and the question of re-examining witnesses who had previously been before the Commission was raised.

8. It was perfectly well known to every member of the Commission that what the President himself called on a previous occasion a "tacit rule" existed, that the evidence as to claims for indemnity should be taken first, and that, as to other matters, the evidence was to follow; but if, in the course of examination as to indemnity, statements as to other matters were made, the subject might, then and there, be followed up if necessary.

9. I reminded the Commission that I had not examined, in the course of the inquiry, witnesses as to pillage, except when it appeared to me that some point required clearing, and then only after some one else had commenced the subject.

10. The discussion on recalling witnesses continued, and made me raise the question, "Have I the right to recall and re-examine witnesses when necessary?" Count Marquisse and Captain Conti fully assented to this, but the former with a reservation that he could not answer for his associates; and I did not understand them to express a decided opinion on the subject, but I considered that, practically, there was no difference of opinion. However, the French members of the Commission rose to leave the room, and then I had a short conversation with the President on another matter, and then left him with no idea of the question they were about to discuss, or that there was any important difference of opinion, though expressions dropped from Captain d'Amboise and M. Robin told me that, some way or another, they were determined the Commission should cease.

11. I was so little prepared for the result, that my Italian colleague and I considered what should be done on a subject that had been discussed the previous day personal to the President, who had expressed to me that if my Italian colleague's resignation on personal grounds; this referred to the evidence given by David Spiteri. I need not say we both entirely differed with him in his great sensibility as to what had been said and were prepared, and offered, to take any measures of order to prevent his arriving at such an unnecessary conclusion as his resignation, we both prepared letters to him ready for use, had he brought the question before the Commission.

12. On a few occasions with well-informed witnesses, with the view of obtaining general information, I have asked various questions as to people and facts, so as to obtain some clue to guide us for the future.

13. I have had repeated conversations on the subject of examining witnesses, and as to the conduct of the proceedings, both on a very early date as to our sittings, and more recently. I have observed to him how difficult it was to get a straight answer at a time when claims were being considered on any subject excepting that which the witness thought affected his pecuniary interests, also on the subject of the

witnesses to give evidence, and on the pressure that had notoriously been brought to bear on them out of doors, and not only with our united concurrence as to the absolute necessity of separating evidence given as to claims from that as to other portions of the duty imposed on us, but in Commission also, when all were present, the liberty existed to recall witnesses had been asserted and assented to on several occasions. How could it be otherwise? There was no prosecutor and no defendant to bring the *pro* and *con* before us. The names of the people and of their position, of the evidence that they could give, and of the opportunities they had had to acquire it were unknown to us.

14. Those claimants who had embarked and had gone to Tunis in the first steamers that left Sfax after the outbreak, and who did not return until days after the fall, necessarily could tell us but little compared to those who remained throughout, or who had special opportunities afforded them of observing occurrences.

15. We were not in a position to call evidence sufficient to get at the whole truth till the Commission had at all events made great progress with its inquiry as to claims. To debar the Commission from recalling witnesses would put at one side 400 persons, who, M. Robin says in his draft Report, we have already examined, and this number includes all, or nearly all, the heads of families and of persons in position in Sfax, who surely should be able to give the best possible evidence, and the truth as to pillage could only be extracted after an exhausting examination.

16. So well was this system understood, that when M. Avvocato, the Italian Consul, was examined, he requested to call a witness to state direct to the Commission what he had told M. Avvocato, and which the latter had used in a written Report.

17. There was a difference of opinion between my Italian and French colleagues, and it was referred to me. I gave it as my opinion that it would be better not to depart from the tacit rule which we had accepted for our guidance, but to allow M. Avvocato to give any evidence he thought fit, and then the President of the Commission would consider whether we should hear the witness or not. At the same time I was careful to say that if the witness was called after all evidence as to claims had been taken, I should call him in. My colleagues were not very much surprised by every French member of the Commission, and M. Avvocato himself, I said, I heard in full, and immediately after his examination—where I took the address he had referred to was examined in the matter.

18. It is true my colleagues on the Commission have not restricted themselves so much as to the examining of the witness—it was simply a matter of discretion as to whether, as my Italian colleague, in the exercise of the liberty to do so, examined witnesses or not, and others, and the position of the Commission will be found a mass of confusion on the subject.

19. Other witnesses have been repeatedly called before the Commission without objection—notably, M. Mattel, the French Consul at Tunis.

20. There is but one conclusion that irresistibly forces itself on my mind, it is that, specially so in the case of the Italian Consul, David Spiteri, two, at least, of the French members of the Commission gave up all hopes of being able to sign a Report that would carry unanimity with them, and that the end were sought.

21. In conclusion, I beg to add that, in my opinion, the Commission was required to be called by me, but I intended, during Mr. Leonardi and Mr. Spiteri's examination, to let it appear that I had a very good examination of the first part of the draft I was aware they could all very likely be coming, to what was in the draft. But it was intended to be done by all as I know not.

I have, &c.

Signed G. TRYON.

PC 403/21

RECORD OFFICE LONDON

Evidence of Mr. Leadbetter on the Second occasion of his being Examined, taken down by Captain Tryon's Secretary.

October 21, 1881.

Leadbetter.—Of the two iron chests belonging to the esparto yard, one was employed daily and the other had recently arrived from the coast. I was informed a few days after I landed that the latter had been carried by our labourers into a store near the north gate of the town. The first day after I landed I visited the store where the strong box was, and found it intact, but, having no order about it I left it there; nor had I any means of transporting it. Four days afterwards I got permission of the Commandant of the place to go with my labourers to fetch it; Michele Montebello was with me. The names of the labourers I can't for the moment remember. On entering the store I found most of the things as I left them, but the strong box was forced open and broken. Montebello was a pick-saw as I believe French soldiers use, and a soldier who was by took possession of it. The door of the box had marks also of a pick.

As regards my house in the suburb, I paid it a hurried visit on the 17th July, and found several things thrown on the floor, but the greater part of my books remained in the bookcase. In this house was also a strong box, which I found in its place; two days afterwards I paid it a second visit, accompanied by a soldier given me by the Colonel at my request. In the house I found two soldiers amusing themselves with my sewing machine; the strong-box was thrown on the ground and opened by its own key, which was left in the house. My writing-desk also was thrown on the floor and broken. On the 20th July I had authority to retake possession of my house. I went to do so to the above house with Michele Montebello; I could no longer find my writing-desk. As my door was barred up, I entered the house by a way where some soldiers were, went on to the roof, and then went down into my house. To keep people out I shut and sealed two doors, returning to my roof. During this last visit I found all my books that were formerly on the shelves thrown on the floor.

Michele Montebello went to make an inventory on the 22nd July, when he found the doors that I had previously sealed broken down. On the 23rd I visited the shop of Montebello, and found the door forced and a great many things missing. I heard on the 19th that an order was given to the soldiers not to enter the houses without authority. This notice I saw on the 20th July. Before this I noticed that many doors were barred up, but on the 20th I saw many more planked up and nailed; on this day I visited with Montebello his shop and found it forced open afresh. I judged this from the fact that it bore signs of having been sealed up; on entering we found two soldiers inside with things in their hands; I went at once to the Colonel and got an officer to put the things in order. I returned with him to the magazine; there was a sentry close to the magazine who was told particularly by the officer to keep persons off from the house. I found still more things missing. The goods in the shop are of every kind: candles, soap, liquor, and comestibles.

On first landing, the 17th July, I saw Pasquale Campolo's shop open with soldiers in it in the back shop; there was a sentry in front of the door. There were soldiers in other shops along the Strada Reale. In my opinion a great many people were selling things in the streets in general, what formed my party was what I heard and the groups I saw. I saw other shops with soldiers rummaging about inside, turning everything topsy-turvy, but I only remember the shop of Michele. When I went to the Colonel on the 20th July, I entered his house and found several officers at dinner, amongst them was Major, who spoke in my favour so that an officer was granted to accompany me. I reported the circumstances that I have now related, and it was taken down in writing; this was in the beginning of August. The person who took the deposition was Mr. W. Galea, British Vice-consul for Sfax.

On the 8th October Captain Fryn told me to give him a short statement as my services might be required by the Commission. I asked Captain Tryon later on if a written statement left with the Consul would suffice, he replied, "No," it being necessary that he should give his statement verbally.

Affidavit of Mr. Leadbetter.

Sfax, October 17, 1881.

I, THE Undersigned, James T. Leadbetter, solemnly declare that I can take my oath to having witnessed the following circumstances:

After the capture of the town of Sfax I was informed by our labourers that they had conveyed to a store inside the north gate of the Moorish town several things that had been in the yard, especially the iron safe of Grin (not the safe that stood in the head office).

On about the 23th July I visited a store in the Fondoak, inside the north gate of the Moorish town, and saw the safe there intact, but I had neither a permit nor the means of carrying it to a place of safety. On returning after about four days, accompanied by labourers and M. Montebello, I found the safe to be broken to pieces, and I saw a pick lying beside the broken safe; I believed the pick to be the same as the ones used by the French soldiers.

On the 17th July I saw Salvatore Giardina's scrow esparto press standing intact; the fire of the esparto had not quite reached it. Later on I saw that the press had been carried off.

On the 17th July, when I visited Perry, Bury, and Co.'s yard, I did not see any of the fencing or other fixed woodwork of the yard to be wanting, with the exception, perhaps, of some damage done to a gate. Since then I have seen a great part of the fencing to have been continued by soldiers, for the purpose, but not for firewood.

I do not need to note down what I have seen of the burning of the work of the yard and the destructive use of hoops, ironwork, esparto, &c., all by the French soldiers, the which were patent to all.

On the morning of the 17th July, I hurriedly visited our house inside the suburb, and saw that it was all upside down. A map of mine was lying open on the floor; I have not seen the map since; many books and a strong iron box remained in their places.

On the 18th July I got a soldier from the Colonel and hastily visited the house outside the suburb, where I saw the strong box which I saw on the 17th to be thrown down from its place, open. I had the impression that a window-desk lying open on the floor was mine. Two soldiers were playing with the strong box.

On the 20th July I got a permit to enter our houses, and finding the door of the house in the suburb nailed up, I, with M. Montebello, went on to the street and saw where French officers and soldiers were rummaging about inside the house. I went to the broken-down door on the roof. I saw that all of my books, many of which had been in their places at the time of my first visit, were now thrown down on the floor. Montebello took a list of the things that were missing, and I saw that all the things that were in the house were taken away. I saw that the door of the house was nailed up, and I saw that the door of the house was nailed up.

On the 17th July I saw Michele Montebello's shop and saw that it was forced open, and that the door was nailed up.

On the 20th July I saw that an order had been issued prohibiting soldiers entering houses without permission. Bars of wood had been nailed across many of the doors of the houses and stores.

On the 20th July I went to Michele Montebello's shop; the door was open, although it seemed to have been nailed up and then opened again. The soldiers were inside with things in their hands. I went to the Colonel and got an officer to accompany me. The soldiers had gone, and the door was nailed up. The sentry whose station was close by to the house told me that no one entered the house. He made no great fuss about the matter. It was my opinion that a great deal of goods were taken from the shop after the 17th July, and before it could properly be locked up on the 20th July.

I remember on the 17th, when I landed in the afternoon, to have seen a great deal of drunkenness among the French soldiers.

In the forenoon of the 17th July I saw that soldiers were in the Pasquale Campolo's back shop, and a sentry was at the door. Soldiers were also in other shops along the Strada Reale.

In the following days I saw numerous groups with soldiers in the middle, where I understood soldiers were selling European and other property but I had no curiosity to see what they were selling.

I saw a great deal of the woodwork of the suburb of more or less value broken up for firewood.

I remember particularly seeing soldiers very leisurely rummaging through the contents of a small shop in one of the streets of the suburb.

My recollection of the notice that was posted up on the 20th July was that it stated that any soldiers found in any house in the suburb that they were not authorized to be in would be arrested, and would be liable to be tried by Court-martial. The notice, as well as I can remember, was signed by the Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel.

In witness to the truth I the 17th day of October, 1881, put my signature.

(Signed) JAMES T. LEADBETTER.

I do hereby certify that the above signature of James T. Leadbetter, signed at the end of five written pages, was fixed in my presence, and for the truth I put my signature.

(Signed) WM. GALEA, British Vice-Consul at Sfax.

Sfax, October 17, 1881.

Inclosure 12 in No. 256.

Mr. Leadbetter to Captain Tryon.

Sir,

Sfax, October 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this morning. I regret that as Mr. Leonardi has not got the original letter in his possession, and as I only preserved a rough copy of what I wrote, I can only make up the inclosed copy from memory. I believe, however, that it is correct word for word, and I have, &c.

(Signed) J. LEADBETTER.

Inclosure 13 in No. 256.

Mr. Leadbetter to Mr. Leonardi.

Sir,

Sfax, October 21, 1881.

AS I have already presented my claims to the International Commission at present sitting, and as I am bound to leave for England to-morrow, I beg of you to ask the said Commission if they require to interrogate me about any matter they may think of, and I have, &c.

(Signed) J. LEADBETTER.

No. 257.

General Menabrea to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 2.)

35, Queen's Gate, South Kensington,
le 1^{er} Novembre, 1881.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

J'E vous envoie ci-jointe la note que vous m'avez demandée hier relative à la dissolution de la Commission d'Enquête de Sfax.

En attendant la réponse que vous voudrez bien me donner à ce sujet, je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signed) L. P. MENABREA.

Inclosure in No. 257.

Memorandum.

LA Commission Internationale chargée de l'enquête sur les événements de Sfax, après avoir achevé l'examen des réclamations, allait rédiger ses conclusions, lorsque, à la suite de la demande du Commissaire Britannique de faire entendre par la Commis-

sion les déclarations d'un sujet Anglais relativement aux auteurs du pillage, les Commissaires Français se retirèrent et le Président prononça la dissolution de la Commission.

Le Commissaire de la Reine, de même que son collègue d'Italie, manifestèrent aussitôt par des lettres leur désappointement de ce procédé. En effet, les résultats de l'enquête parvenue jusqu'à ce stade, par les Agents du Gouvernement Italien, aussi bien que les procès-verbaux de la Commission Internationale, prouvent que la France ne saurait se dispenser de donner des explications et d'accorder des satisfactions aux lésés.

Le Gouvernement du Roi s'est empressé d'envoyer à son Commissaire, M. le Comte de Launay, par le canal de son instruction, le Secrétaire du Commissaire Britannique, dans le but de prendre une attitude commune. Il pense qu'après avoir épuisé les moyens de la persuasion pour obtenir la reprise de l'enquête, les Commissaires Anglais et Italien devraient tomber d'accord pour adresser au Président de la Commission une lettre motivée, faisant ressortir que leur conduite n'avait en aucune façon justifié sa décision et que par celle-ci il a outrepassé les limites de ses attributions, attendu que la dissolution de la Commission équivaut en réalité à une dérogation aux engagements que la France a contractés envers l'Angleterre et l'Italie en acceptant l'enquête sur ce qui s'est passé à Sfax.

L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie a l'honneur de prier Lord Granville de vouloir bien le mettre en mesure de faire connaître au Gouvernement du Roi l'avis et les intentions du Gouvernement de la Reine à ce sujet.

Londres, le 1^{er} Novembre, 1881.

No. 258.

Mr. Rende to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4, 6 P.M.)

(No. 103.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, November 4, 1881, 11:30 A.M.

A PETITION to M. Roustan praying that the French troops be not withdrawn from the city of Tunis in course of preparation.

A portion of French community, principally Jews, are reported to be the only subscribers to it.

No. 259.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 983.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 3, 1881.

YESTERDAY, in execution of the instruction contained in your Lordship's dispatch No. 102 of the 20th, I sent Mr. Barthélemy St. Hilaire the charge of complicity with the insurgents in the neighbourhood of Sfax, brought against Mr. Levy, in a letter from General Legerat, communicated by M. Roustan, the French Minister Resident in Tunis, to Mr. Rende.

I proceeded to explain the real state of the case very nearly in the terms of Mr. Rende's letter to M. Roustan of the 1st of November, and I say that there appeared to be no foundation for the charge against Mr. Levy.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire answered that he heard of the matter for the first time, as no report respecting it had been received from M. Roustan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 260.

Mr. Rende to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 103.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 28, 1881.

THE Tunisian Representative on the Sfax Commission and the Councillor of the French Consulate-General, who has acted as Secretary of that Commission, arrived here

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 110.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to confirm a telegram which I this day forwarded to your Lordship's Office, reporting that a certain number of French subjects (principally Jews) have addressed a Memorial to the French Government setting forth the great dangers which, as they allege, would accrue to them in the event of the French garrison being withdrawn from this city, and praying that such a withdrawal of French troops may not take place.

I have reason to believe that the Memorial referred to has been got up at the instigation of M. Roustan, and that it is intended for production hereafter as evidence to show that the decision lately arrived at of entering the city and occupying it militarily is justified by the existing circumstances.

Be that, however, as it may, I have felt that some interest may attach to the above incident from the indication it appears to afford of indecision on the part of the French authorities as to their military policy in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 1002.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 10, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 999 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report that the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the Tunisian interpellations was continued the day before yesterday and yesterday; and that it was terminated yesterday by the adoption by a very large majority (355 to 69) of an order of the day proposed by M. Gambetta, which ran as follows:—

"La Chambre, résolue à l'exécution intégrale du Traité souscrit par la nation Française le 12 Mai, 1881, passe à l'ordre du jour."

On the day before yesterday M. Langlois opened the resumed debate by a speech, in which he discussed the military arrangements made with regard to the Tunisian Expedition.

He was followed by M. Clémenceau, who declared the motives for the attack upon Tunis to have been considerations connected with the interests of certain French commercial enterprises, such as the "Enfida" Company, the "Bône-Guelma" Railway Company, and the "Crédit Foncier Tunisien," and called for a Parliamentary inquiry.

Yesterday M. Jules Ferry, the President of the Council of Ministers, replied to the attacks made upon the Government by M. Clémenceau the day before, and by other speakers in the previous parts of the debate.

After a speech from M. Ballue and a rejoinder to M. Jules Ferry's reply from M. Clémenceau, the debate was declared to be closed.

The proceedings then became confused and were on the verge of becoming ridiculous, when M. Gambetta intervened.

Motions for a Parliamentary inquiry made by M. Clémenceau and M. Ballue had been rejected by large majorities. The order of the day proposed by M. Ballue had been rejected by 312 votes against 170. About a dozen different orders of the day had been proposed by various members, but none of them had appeared to find favour with the Chamber; a motion to conclude without any order of the day, and a motion to refer the orders of the day to a Bureau, had been rejected. To cut matters short, and to be coming to a deadlock, when M. Gambetta (as was mentioned at the beginning of this despatch) moved and carried by an enormous majority an order of the day affirming the Resolution of the Chamber to maintain the Treaty between France and Tunis signed at Cass-Said on the 12th May last.

It is presumed that the Jules Ferry Ministry will resign to-day, and that M. Gambetta will be immediately charged by the President of the Republic with the formation of a new Cabinet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 11.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 10, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts of a letter from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 26th ultimo, relating to the movement of French troops at Tunis and Suse.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 267

Captain Tryon to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Monarch," at Sfax, October 25, 1881.

DELAYS have occurred at Tunis with reference to the movements of the French troops, but I am inclined to believe that they are now on the move, though the information allowed to permeate beyond their camp is very limited.

At Suse there is a large force, probably about 5,000 men, cavalry and artillery, and preparations are being made for laying down a tramway thence to Kerouan.

Her Majesty's ship "Falcon" sailed to-day for Mehdiah, Suse, and Hamamett, at which ports she will stay but a few hours, and then go to Tunis to relieve Her Majesty's ship "Bittern."

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 11.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 11, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform Earl Granville that a telegram has this day been received from Captain Tryon, dated the 9th instant, from Sfax, asking whether he is to send all papers and reports home at once.

My Lords will be glad to know what reply Lord Granville would wish to be sent to Captain Tryon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(N. 177.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 11, 1881.

THE Italian Ambassador asked me to-day whether Her Majesty's Government had formed any opinion with regard to the abrupt termination of the proceedings of the Commission, composed of Representatives of Great Britain, Italy, and France, which had been sitting at Sfax to inquire into the claims of the subjects of those three Governments in regard to the bombardment and occupation of that city, and the seizure of Her Majesty's steamer "Le Comte de Paris" in connection with regard to the capture of the French steamer "Le Comte de Paris." He said that he believed the Italian Government were in the same position as the Government with respect to the matter, and that he had been in communication at the same time with some of the Italian Ministers.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government had not yet received full reports from Captain Tryon, the British Commissioner at Sfax. A statement had been forwarded by him but it appeared from a letter which had reached the Admiralty this morning that another report was to be expected. This would have to be considered

FC 403/22

BY THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE ADMIRALTY OFFICE LONDON

in communication with the proper Law Advisers of the Crown before Her Majesty's Government could come to any determination.

With regard to the occurrence to which he referred of the murder of certain Maltese in the interior, Her Majesty's Government were also without full information. The fact had been reported by Mr. Roade, but Her Majesty's Government had not received any specific claims arising out of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 270.

Consul Payton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

Mogador, October 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that it is popularly reported here that the port of Agadir, a place hitherto closed against European travellers and trade, situate near the mouth of the River Soos, some 2½ days' journey, or about 70 miles to the south of Mogador, is about to be opened to European commerce by His Sherrefian Majesty the Sultan.

It is stated also that a former "Captain of the Port" of Mogador has been appointed to a similar post for Agadir, and is about to proceed thither with orders to build lighters.

Up to the present time I have no official information on this subject, and the Kaid of Mogador denies the authenticity of the report.

It would seem, however, that the opening of Agadir may be a consequence of the Sultan against the threatened opening, under French auspices and with French assistance, of a new port in the Ait Bou Amran district, on which the French Minister at Tangier informed me that he had lately communicated to your Lordship some information which I forwarded to him.

While the Ait Bou Amran port would be out of the Sultan's effective, though not out of his nominal, jurisdiction, Agadir would be within it, and a custom-house would be opened there for the benefit of His Sherrefian Majesty, a portion of its revenues, as in other Moorish ports, going to Spain in gradual payment of the Spanish war indemnity.

The opening of either of these ports would no doubt have the effect of diverting a large amount of trade from Mogador; the Ait Bou Amran one would be nearly twice as far south as Agadir, but the latter place, from its proximity to Terudant, the great entrepôt of the important trade of the Province of Soos, would be a formidable rival to its more southern neighbour.

I will not fail to communicate to your Lordship any authentic information which may reach me with regard either to Agadir, or to the rumoured French designs further south.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CONSUL PAYTON.

P.S. — Since writing the foregoing I have obtained further information on the subject, which, although not official, may probably be authentic. It is to the effect that the Sultan, by valuable presents and other means, has conciliated Sheikh Hassen-el-Hadani, of Ait Bou Amran, and neighbouring Sheikh Abd-el-Hadani, and that this latter, the so-called Sheikh, will not allow a port to be opened in his district to the French.

I also learn that a party of soldiers and workmen and vigas, with a quantity of wood, presumably for boat building, have left Mogador for Agadir, that the "Captain of the Port" lately appointed has also gone thither, and that some merchants of Mogador have sent agents to Agadir to buy up houses and lands there.

C. A. P.

No. 271.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 1007.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 11, 1881

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Colonel Brackenbury, marked Confidential, respecting the facts concerning the Tunisian expedition which were brought out in the recent debate in the Chamber of Deputies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 271.

Colonel Brackenbury to Lord Lyons

(Confidential)

My Lord,

Paris, November 11, 1881

THE recent debate in the Chamber of Deputies has not thrown any light upon the military organization and conduct of the expedition. The statements now made by Ministers are in direct conflict with those made by them in the spring and in the summer. Your Excellency will not have forgotten the assurances as to the objects of the expedition given in April last; but in his second speech in the late debate M. Jules Ferry openly admits that the expedition was undertaken to further French material interests in Tunis, and not merely for the chastisement of the Kroumirs or the protection of the Algerian frontier.

The difference between past and present statements is equally striking when we turn to the explanation of the method adopted for forming the expeditionary force.

The plan adopted in April was to send from France the head-quarters and two battalions of each of certain regiments of infantry of the line, and with infantry so organized the first campaign against the Kroumirs was carried out. In June the Ministry, asking for a second vote of credit, stated that they were in a position to estimate that the operations would last till the 10th July, and among the items asked for was "1,200,000 fr. pour le rapatriement en hommes et en chevaux, en fin d'expédition." In July, the head-quarters and one battalion of each regiment sent as above were recalled to France, one battalion only (the fourth) of each regiment being left in Tunis.

Immediately after this partial recall of troops, a number of fourth battalions of different line regiments were sent out and formed into "régiments de marche." On the 26th July, General Farre explained the reasons for this course of action in the Senate. He pointed out that the absence of the head-quarters of regiments and two battalions from France would interfere with mobilization for the repair work, while the fourth battalions could be spared, because they were only destined to garrison fortresses, and their place could be supplied by the territorial army. He distinctly spoke of the Tunis expedition as finished, and said: "Les opérations qui restent à faire, je dois le déclarer en ce moment, ne sont pas des opérations de même nature que celles que nous avons engagées en Tunisie, en ce sens que nous avons surtout besoin d'avoir en Algérie des troupes de surveillance. Ce sont des postes divers qu'il faut occuper, de petites colonnes qu'il faut constituer pour agir suivant les besoins autour de ces postes, sur les nomades ou dans les régions dont la tranquillité est plus ou moins compromise. Pour ce genre d'action, je crois que nous pouvons nous contenter des quatrièmes bataillons. . . . Je puis en constituer des régiments de marche à trois bataillons, qui seraient très suffisants pour agir en Algérie, et qui me paraissent de nature à nous donner satisfaction." But, on the 5th instant, M. Jules Ferry, speaking of this very time—July 1881, in defending the Minister of War:—"Il était résolu, dans la pensée du Gouvernement, qu'on ferait de grandes campagnes d'automne à la fois dans le Sud-Oranais et dans le sud de la Régence. . . . et c'est alors que vint s'imposer à nous l'obligation d'appeler les quatrièmes bataillons."

It is perhaps now scarcely worth while to inquire whether the truth was spoken in July or in November; but I will state my own impressions of the facts of the case.

[1508]

24

The French Government, having decided to establish a protectate over Turan, was anxious to disguise that design from foreign Powers. It therefore took, as a pretext for invading the Regency, the necessity for chastising the Kroumirs. Up to the last moment it denied that the force destined to march upon Turan itself had any object but to surround the Kroumir country. Having forced a Treaty upon the Bey, it thought that the country would settle down, and that a very small army of occupation would be sufficient.

In view of approaching elections, the Government did not dare to disturb the country by calling out reserves, which would have required the authority of the Chamber. It therefore organized the original expedition on paper, and a military system. When the Protest rate had been established by the Ministry of Finance, it was only the worst defects of the original organization, substituting truth for an equally false principle, though perhaps not so fatal to continued mobilization. It was not till after it had embarked in this system, that it realized that a general rising of the Arabs was imminent. And it has been gradually drawn on, with an declaration of war, until it has got an army of more than 50,000 men in the southern districts of the Regency. Fear of the political consequences of asking the Chamber to declare war, and call reserves has kept it constantly on the false military track in which it started, and, the whole organization of the French army being based on the supposition that war involves calling out reserves, that organization has become seriously hampered, and the whole mobilization scheme not only of the infantry, but still more of the artillery, engineers, and train, has become notoriously broken in upon to such an extent that, were European mobilization demanded, the whole machinery would be found to be out of gear.

The chief attack on the military authorities was made by M. Amédée Le Faure, whose speech has appeared in most French papers. Having recently visited several of the garrisons in Tunis, M. Le Faure positively stated that the figures as to the loss of life of the troops officially published by the Government were false. The official statement was that the total loss of life between the 20th and 25th May 1911 was 2,000, whereas M. Le Faure stated that he had visited by him, in each of which he had seen a number of deaths during the period. M. Le Faure's statement compared the mortality in France with that in Africa. M. Le Faure says that the mortality assigned to France for the purpose of this comparison was five times as great as that printed and published in the official medical statistics for the period in question.

The Minister of War, in reply, admits that there were 782 deaths in Tunis in the six months from April 1 to September 30 in the month of August alone; but asserts that the 'moyenne' for Algeria for these six months was only 4.22 per 100, while the 'moyenne' for Algeria for three years was 3.25, thus acknowledging an augmentation of sickness of less than 1 per cent. for the Tunis campaign.

M. de Fourcy thus sums up the result of the system of formation of the army of Tunis upon the efforts of the infantry in France. He says: "The line takes 171,000 soldiers, exclusive of extras for 144 regiments of infantry. The loss of 1870 and the second portion of the contingent of 1880 decreased the number to 140,000; Algeria and Tunis take 40,000; "conges" for the losses of 1877 and 1874 in the service of forty months, 30,000 to 40,000; leaving only 30,000 to 40,000 men for the whole infantry in France.

The Minister of War renews his assertion that, though he has sent eighty-four fourth battalions from France to Africa, the elements of mobilization are intact. But he preserves the same silence, on which I have remarked, as regards the artillery, engineers, train, &c., whence whole units of mobilization have been taken, and where the disorganization is worst.

He says that the winter "conge" have been withheld in those regiments which have sent battalions to Africa, and whereas M. le Paire gives statistics of regiments containing only 224 men in 12 cadres, and 14 companies of 12 men only, 11 and 12 men each, including the cadres, General Frenet states that even in the regiments which have sent battalions abroad, 533 men remain. He adds that the new contingent—the class of 1880—joins on the 10th November.

"engagés," which are an essential element of the system of military service, that he has succeeded in keeping seven-twelfths of the French regiments at a strength of 563 for three battalions and two dépôt companies.

Now the cadres alone of those three battalions and two companies are, according

o the Tables in the Law of Cadres, no less than 357. There remain, therefore, only 200 soldiers to be divided among 14 companies, or about 14 men per company, to assist in training the recruits who join during the present week.

The defence of the second act of operations in Tunis was undertaken by M. Langlois, an ex Colonel of National Guard and the Reporter of the Commission on the War Budget. He could not but admit that the organization was defective and at the close of a very plain speech suggested that there should be a special corps of troops for Africa, composed of volunteer soldiers. This was largely opposed by the majority of the Chamber, and, amongst others, I was informed by M. Landolphi. It is evident that the current of opinion is setting in this direction. M. Landolphi's argument was that such soldiers would be "better left to stay in France to support the rights of the African church." General Joffre, too, has said, he asserts that, from army and civil statistics prove the typhoid fever makes its average between the ages of 20 and 25 years." It is he says "unrealistic and impractical." And yet I thought this I did, the War Minister acted to select the country where typhoid fever was prevalent, more prevalent with a French army which existed only in my corps at the time of the expedition. I am very much surprised if young soldiers from 20 to 25 years of age, when by adding 10 years to, he would have found arguments in which at least two-thirds of the men would have been over 30 and 35 years old. Every old soldier engaging for such an African corps as M. Langlois proposes will be taken from the reserve of the army in France; and it is impossible to avoid asking why a new system should be invented before the existing organization has been given a fair trial.

M. Jules Ferry informed the Chamber that certain parts of Tur's will be permanently occupied by French troops, although he denies any idea of annexation.

I conceive that the incoming Minister of War, whoever he may be, will say for his first task to endeavour to restore to the army in France the elements of mobilized and displaced by the expedition to Tunis, and to place the army in France in the same state of preparation for continental war in which it was last March. Yet troops must be provided for the permanent occupation of Tunis, and they certainly cannot at present be spared from Algeria. The only course seems, therefore, to be the formation of a new army corps for service in Tunis. How far men will be found willing to engage for long service in such a corps it is impossible at present to say; but we know that non-commissioned officers will not re-engage after their first period of service, in spite of the heavy premiums offered under the new law of re-engagements. Probably in such a corps there will be formed new native regiments, raised in the Regency. The nucleus of such regiments already exists in the army of the Bey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BRACKENBURY.

No. 272.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 131)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 2, 1881

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship a despatch from
Major Sene, inclosing a paper giving statistics of the Province of Tripoli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **DUFPERIN.**

Inclosure 1 in No. 272.

Major Secaire to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 2, 1881.

FOR some months past the Statistical Department at the Seraskierat has been busy in obtaining all the necessary information respecting the Province of Thessaly. During my absence in Thessaly this work has been printed (though not for circulation), and I have been able to obtain a translation of it in parts.

I have the honour to lay it before your Excellency, for, although its information

is not as complete as I should have liked, it may afford an opportunity of gauging the amount of knowledge possessed by the Imperial Government of the statistics of one of its distant provinces, and one in which it appears to take no small interest at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. V. SWAINE, *Military Attaché*.

Inclosure 2 in No. 272.

Statistics of Tripoli (Africa)

General Survey. The geographical configuration of the coast of North Africa may be likened unto the trace of a bastioned front. The curtain uniting the two bastions—Egypt on the east and Algiers and Morocco on the west—is given by the line from Kabas to Mouklitar, of which the interior flanks are formed by the west coast of Benghazi and the east coast of Tunis.

The possession of these bastions is of the greatest importance, as it ensures the command of Africa and of the Mediterranean. In other words, the Provinces of Tunis and Tripoli form the nucleus of the great line of maritime defence of North Africa. It was the possession of this nucleus which successively assured the power of Carthage, of the Romans, and of the Arabs; it is the key to the shortest and safest line of commercial intercourse with Central Africa.

The town of Tripoli was annexed to the Ottoman Empire in the reign of Sultan Suliman in the year 1552.

Its geographical and ethnographical condition is similar to the other parts of Northern Africa, and its territory may be divided into three regions—

- (a.) The hilly region.
- (b.) The maritime region.
- (c.) The Sahara region.

From Tunis, Algiers, and Morocco it differs, firstly, in being less mountainous; secondly, in having less land capable of cultivation; thirdly, in possessing larger date districts; and, fourthly, in the desert, which in parts approaches the sea, being less pronounced.

The valleys of Tripoli are very fertile in the west between the Lake of Bibens and Cape Mesrata, but from that point to the Gulf of Sydra they are completely barren, owing to the many salt marshes in that region.

Towards the interior the land only rises in the west of the vilayet, where the Karian hills form the last spurs of a small range of mountains.

The plateau, which to the east of Benghazi rises to about 500 metres, falls abruptly to the coast between Tenkeo and Derna.

The high lands of Dar and Djebel, extending to the oasis of Fezzan, are particularly advantageous to the growth of dates, olives, and figs.

Water.—Although no considerable river passes through the vilayet, yet there are many watercourses in the higher regions, especially near Karian, which during the rainy season are filled, and which run either inland, losing themselves in the desert, or empty themselves into the sea.

Climate.—On the whole the climate of Tripoli is not unhealthy, although strangers suffer a good deal in the lower oases near Benghazi. The heat is very great, especially during the south winds, but these never last more than three or four days at a time. In the winter there is much rain and wind on the plateaus, with sudden changes of temperature, even down to a degree of cold ("cold" in summer the greatest heat ever known reached 80 degrees at Mourzouk in 1860. Rain only falls in the latitude of Tripoli and Benghazi regularly. Under the 23 latitude there is no more rain. In the Fezzan district the north and north-west winds prevail almost throughout the year; it seldom blows from the west, and rainfalls are very irregular.

Frontiers.—The northern frontier of the Vilayet of Tripoli (Tarsablu-i-2) is formed by the Mediterranean Sea, which from the Lake of Bibens to the Egyptian frontier has a length of 1,800 kilom. The western frontier, beginning at the Lake of Bibens, passes to the west of Ghayat, touches Bir and Hassi and the hills of Akak Rous, near Ghad (Rhas), and stretches to the south as far as the mountain of Tiggeran-

douma. The southern frontier is formed by the 21 latitude. Although this limit is adopted on the maps of all the principal geographers of Europe it is nevertheless elastic and variable, as it passes chiefly through uncultivated lands and deserts, where the inhabitants are Mussulmans, who regard the Sovereign of Turkey not alone as their religious, but also as the worldly head. In the east the nomad tribes, struggling for independence, continue to dispute the possession of the oases of Koufra, although they are only cultivated by the Souyas Arabs, who live away at Lechkerre, to the north of Djalo. In fact, the only points of the oases of Koufra strongly inhabited are the villages of Djof, also peopled by the Souyas Arabs, and the Zavias, or Tekke El Istal de Seidi Senvusi, a dependency of the great religious stronghold—Djiga Boule.

This theological institute, attended by numbers of scholars from all parts of Africa, has made itself celebrated in that country.

In addition to these, the oasis of Koufra, the Vilayet of Tripoli with Benghazi and the Fezzan has an extent of 1,213,400 square kilom., equal to 22,037 geographical square miles, or about twice the size of France.

Without the oases of Koufra the vilayet would have 1,033,340 square kilom., or 18,763 geographical square miles, of which 40,000 square kilom. are fertile or cultivated lands. These latter exceed the size of the Kingdom of Holland.

Of the 40,000 square kilom. of fertile soil there are about 3,000 of grazing lands, 23,000 of plough lands, 5,000 of garden lands, 10,000 of olive forests; the remainder, about 1,000,000 square kilom., is uncultivated desert.

The bordering countries are: in the north-west, Tunis (150 kilom. frontier) and Algiers (300 kilom. frontier); in the south-west, the lands of the Touaregs; in the south, the desert of Sahara and the oases of Tibesti; in the south-east, the desert and the oases of Lybia; and in the north-east, Egypt.

The inhabitants of the Eastern Sahara are chiefly Tebouas Arabs, these, as well as the inhabitants of Tibesti (12,000), of Barkou (11,000), of Wadjanga (Ouadynaga) (5,000), of Kinnem (22,000), as well as some 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 inhabitants of the southern Fezzan, namely, of Katroun, of Bachi, of Medroussa, and of Tidjeri, are all Mussulmans. The Tebouas tribe may be estimated at 100,000 souls.

Population.—The Vilayet of Tripoli in 1844 consisted of 750,000 inhabitants. The official Report, published in Constantinople in 1877, put the figure at 1,010,000. These were distributed as follows:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------|
| Sandjak of Benghazi | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 302,000 |
| Fezzan | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 45,000 |
| Tripoli | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 663,000 |
| .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

With the exception of these towns, the sedentary inhabitants (Elah Meskioun) live in stone or earth buildings, or in cottages made of branches of the palm tree. The nomads (Hamenichen) use tents of canvas or camel hair.

The ordinary dress of the inhabitants consists of a shirt and pair of trousers of linen. The whole is covered by the "thram" in wool. This latter cloak is the only clothes of the poorest; the rich wear it of silk. Their shoes are of yellow or red leather. The fez is red, of Tunisian shape, and the sash they wear round the waist is red.

Their food consists of flour, milk, and fruit. A mixture of flour, water, salt, and pepper, called "besim," takes the place of bread. "Bouza" is a dish made of dates.

There are from 3,000 to 5,000 Jews and Christians. These stand under Consular jurisdiction.

V.—Sandjak of Benghazi (Barka).

Casas.—Udjee (or Djalo), Meridj, Braasa and Hassa, Derne, Koube, Tobrouk, Leug and Bomba.

The administration of the Province of Tripoli is similar to the other provinces of Turkey.

The sandjaks have each a Mutessarif as Governor, the cazas a Kaimakam, and the dependencies a Mudir.

In reality only the Sheikh govern in Tripoli, who are the Chiefs of the nomad tribes. The most influential of these lives in the Koufra oasis, where the religious institute has its seat. Between the Arab population of Tripoli and the Ottoman Empire there exists, even to-day, little more than the religious union. The former, in spite of undoubted submission to the authority of the Sultan as Caliph, only acknowledge his worldly domination in proportion as his means enable him to enforce it.

The Sultan's power as ruler is only known in the towns; in the country it is wholly imaginary.

Finances.

Revenue.—(a.) Direct taxes, on stationary property (houses, &c.), on military exemption.

(b.) Indirect taxes: tithes, land-tax, tobacco, stamps.

(c.) Diverse taxes: salt, forest, mines.

The yearly income is calculated at about 1,000,000 fr., of which three-fourths is applied to the administrative necessities of the province, and the remaining fourth is sent to Constantinople.

In 1874 the revenue derived from the town of Tripoli amounted to about 361,218 piastres, equal to between 50,000 fr. and 60,000 fr.

Products.—The townspeople chiefly occupy themselves with commercial pursuits, the nomad tribes with breeding cattle. The articles of merchandise of the former are: wool, skins, grain, fruit, matweed; of the latter: camels, sheep, buffaloes and horses.

The caravans bring into the towns slaves, ostrich feathers, ivory, and gold dust, and a brisk trade in exchange for manufactured articles is carried on.

The export trade is valued on the whole at 5,000,000 fr.; the import at half that amount.

The corn which is cut in November and December suffices for the home consumption of the province, and is calculated at 1,200,000 kilog. annually.

The number of fruit bearing trees are calculated as follows:—

| | Trees. | | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------|----|--------|
| Dates | 6,694,028 | Figs | .. | 40,000 |
| Oranges | 321,557 | Not .. | .. | .. |
| Grage | 20,000 | .. | .. | .. |
| .. | 15,000 | Pomegranates | .. | 2,000 |
| Apple | 400 | Quinces | .. | 200 |
| Pear | 200 | .. | .. | .. |

Table showing the Number of Animals in the Province of Tripoli:—

| | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Oxen | 25,000 | Lambs | 200,000 |
| Horses | 800 | .. | 5,000 |
| Cows | 32,000 | .. | 10,000 |
| Goats | 10,000 | .. | 1,000 |
| Mares | 14,000 | .. | .. |
| Colts | 4,000 | .. | .. |
| Rams | 38,000 | .. | 5,000 |
| Sheep | 780,000 | Turkeys | 30,000 |

| The quantity of wool obtained in the course of the year amounts to .. | | Okes |
|---|----|-----------|
| .. goat hair | .. | 2,000,000 |
| .. ewe hair | .. | 80,000 |
| .. horse-comb | .. | 50,000 |
| .. human | .. | 8,000 |

Historical.—The Province of Tripoli was never independent. Its own history has, therefore, but little interest, since her fate was always linked either to that of Tunis or of Egypt.

The Phœnicians were the first people who attempted to cultivate the lands. The Carthaginians were the next to invade the territory. But they in turn had to leave over the Government to the Vandals, Greeks, and Romans.

The name of Tripoli is Greek, and still is so after the three large towns of the Regency: the Carthage, Oudja, and Tripoli of to-day, Sabrata, and Leptis Magna.

In the year 201 B.C. the Romans made way for the Nubians. These, after a short life, were defeated by the local tribes and driven away. From this time until its annexation to the Byzantine Empire it constituted itself as one of the North African provinces, under the name of Tripoli. But even when it is considered it could never be assimilated to the European provinces of the Empire. This is a fact which is independent of the fact that the Arabs, who the Arabs of the Prophet, conquered it, were not between 641 and 670, and that it was not until 1549.

In the year 1549 the Ottoman Empire took Tripoli. The Capoudan Pasha, Sir, captured the town, and it was not until 1550 that it was taken. Since the reign of Sultan Mehmet the First, Tripoli has been a province of the Ottoman Empire. Tripoli was not a province of the Ottoman Empire until 1714, when it was annexed to the Ottoman Empire, and the province was definitely annexed to the Ottoman Empire, and the name of Tripoli de Tarabulus-i-Gharb.

No. 273.

Sir A. Poet to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14)

(No. 401. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, November 13, 1881.

M. MANCINI, who on his return with the King and Queen from Vienna, remained two days at Milan, arrived in Rome on Thursday, the 3rd instant, and had an interview with his Excellency yesterday.

He spoke to me of the details of the Treaty in the manner I have already mentioned in my despatch No. 42, Commercial, of this date, and having concluded his remarks on this subject, he proceeded to tell me that the French Charge d'Affaires, who had called on him the previous afternoon, had spoken to him of the Italian Consul at Tunis, on account of his persistently refusing to recognize M. Roustan as his country's Minister of the Interior, which was at variance with the principle of the Treaty, and that he had, among other things, the Marquis de Reverseaux, especially in this regard.

M. Mancini prefaced the account of his reply to the Charge d'Affaires by remarking, in a deprecatory tone, that Her Majesty's Government had been far too accommodating to the French Government, and that he regretted they had not adopted the line of conduct which he had made known to your Lordship, the circumstances requiring.

His Excellency then proceeded to tell me that he had seen the French Charge d'Affaires that the Italian Consul was simply acting as a representative of his Government, and that therefore not he, but the Italian Government was responsible for his conduct; that he believed such a line of conduct was imposed by the French Government on the Bey was without previous explanation; that the French Government had openly and repeatedly declared that they did not intend to annex Tunis, and that the Bey, on the other hand, had been (M. Mancini) did not wish to raise the question of how far this programme had been adhered to, but what, he inquired, was the existing state of things created by M. Roustan's appointment? The Bey's authority was notoriously in abeyance, both in regard to internal as well as to external affairs, and it was the French Government which directed, and was responsible for, the whole administration of the Regency. There

was no objection, and there had been no reluctance, on the part of the Italian Government, or their Consul at Tunis, to continue official relations with M. Roustan in his capacity of French Consul, nor should they object to M. Roustan, or any other Frenchman, being taken as the Bey's Minister; but what they did object to and could not recognize was, the functions of Bey's Minister and French Consul being centred in one and the same individual. The position now occupied by France in Tunis had been announced as only intended to be of a temporary nature. The Italian Government would therefore wait until the Bey, and the relations of Tunis with foreign Powers, were replaced in a normal condition.

Considering the views entertained by the Italian Government and the feeling in the country and in the Italian Parliament for the present M. Roustan, said he appealed to the Marquis de Revenaux to say whether he, as Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, could have taken any other course than he had done. He had made no complaints, he had never raised any question of an irritating or embarrassing character, and it appeared to him, therefore, that the French Government should rather be satisfied than otherwise that he had confined himself to an attitude of forbearance, when many persons in his position might have treated the matter in a less conciliatory spirit.

M. Roustan informed me that the Marquis de Revenaux had approved of the justice of his observations, which, he added, were made in the most friendly tone and spirit, and promised to report them faithfully to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. P. READE.

No. 271.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 100.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 8, 1881.

I HAVE learnt from a reliable source that it is in contemplation to substitute French military officers for the Bey's present Ministers, and to appoint General Lambert as the next Prime Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. P. READE.

No. 275.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 10. Slave Trade.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 7, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9, Slave Trade, of the 3rd November I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Consul Payton has informed me in a private letter that he has reported to your Lordship that the Sultan is taking active steps in making preparations for opening the port of Agadeer, and that a port officer of Mogador has been ordered to proceed to Agadeer with instructions to cause a number of lighters to be built for communicating with shipping.

With reference to my despatch No. 82, Private Property, of the 10th September, and to your Lordship's despatch No. 29, of the 1st November, I have received a letter from the Vizier thanking me for my previous letter, and expressing his satisfaction in seeing the troops well supplied with provisions. He also states that the prices of these articles have risen greatly in consequence of the dearth which prevails in the southern provinces.

I am informed also that engineers have been dispatched by the Sultan to examine the roads leading to the Suos district, and to report whether any carriages can pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 276.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 15.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 14, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter dated the 2nd instant, from Captain Tryon, of Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," reporting his proceedings, and that the Vice-Consul at Susa had informed him Kerouan was occupied by the French troops on the 26th October last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," Sfax, October 20, 1881.

1 AM commanded by the Vice-Consul at Susa that Kerouan was occupied on the 26th October by a column of French troops, which left Susa on the 22nd October under the command of General Etienne. The column consisted of about 4,000 men, 22 guns, 3 squadrons of cavalry, 1,000 camels, 500 mules, and 100 carts. There was some fighting on the line of march, but on the arrival of the advanced guard near Kerouan, the white flag was hoisted on the great mosque, and the French troops marched through the town and camped outside, one regiment remaining quartered in the Kasbah (the citadel).

2 The railway was intact, and the French troops had for over 12 miles.

3 The column advancing from Zaghwan was said on the 26th to be within a few hours of Kerouan, and that from El-Bas and two other places.

4 It is the French general's intention to bring in a number of troops to bring in a number of troops to bring in a number of troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 277.

Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. to Sir C. Dilke.—(Received November 15.)

Sir,

London, November 11, 1881.

WE beg to refer to our previous communication of the 12th August, 1881.

One of our partners having lately returned from the coast of Tunis and Sfax, where he placed our claims for losses at latter place before the International Commission, we now venture to take the liberty of informing you as to our present position with regard to the French occupation.

As we previously informed you on the 12th August, the French took possession of our settlement at Sfax, with all it contained, including our stock of esparto; and it is worth noting that this was done after the capture of the town, and when resistance had ceased.

From that period they have used our ground and buildings for their own purposes to accommodate the troops, and have used our esparto for building barracks; but they have not destroyed our esparto, and have given us possession of the buildings and sheds erected thereon. For the purpose of our claim, the French have deposited a claim before the Commission of which we have received notice, and we have taken steps to have our claim entered on the list of claims, and we have taken steps to have our claim entered on the list of claims, and we have taken steps to have our claim entered on the list of claims.

We would point out that our claim is entirely correct from all the others for the various matters for which we claim were actually used by the French soldiery (as their officers admit), and were really requisitioned by the Commissariat. We claimed nothing whatever for the occupation of our ground by the French, nor for the stoppage of our business in consequence thereof.

With regard to our losses at Gabes, which the Commission would not allow us to

affaires Tunisiennes, la Chambre des Députés a adopté, à la majorité de 379 voix contre 71, l'ordre du jour suivant sur la proposition de M. Gambetta :—

"La Chambre, résolue à l'exécution du Traité du 12 Mai, passe à l'ordre du jour."

By the great majority of the European residents and the entire native population of this city, who have been led to infer from passing events that the occupation of this country had already acquired a character of permanency, the publication of the above notice is regarded with a sense of relief. Fears are nevertheless very generally entertained that the right which is accorded by Treaty to the French military authorities of occupying any points of the Regency they may deem necessary for the establishment or maintenance of order will be availed of for an indefinite or unreasonably protracted period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 283

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 1024.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 18, 1881

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a note to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's despatch N° 1123 of the 16th instant, inquiring whether it is the intention of that Government that the sittings of the Sfax Commission shall be resumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 284

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 61.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 19, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 109 of the 3rd instant, reporting the changes introduced by M. Roustan in regard to the representation of France at the Bey's levée, and I approve your having attended this ceremony as usual.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 285

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 19, 1881.

WITH reference to your inquiry of the 11th instant as to whether Captain Tryon should be asked to send home at once all the papers relating to the Sfax Commission, I am directed by Earl Granville to request you to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has been instructed to ascertain, in the first instance, whether there is any prospect of the meetings of the Commission being resumed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 286.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 984.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Stamboul," announcing the appointment of Achmet Rassis Pasha as Governor-General of Tripoli in Barbary, in place of Nazif Pasha.

The following details respecting the antecedents of the new Governor-General may be of interest to your Lordship.

Achmet Rassis Pasha was the son of a Moslem father and a Greek mother. He was educated at Athens University, and subsequently lived with a free-thinking philosopher at Thessalonika. He then returned to Constantinople and professed Islamism. He is reported to have advised concession at the Palace on the Greek Frontier question, and is said to be moderate in views, honest, and of some political sagacity, the reverse of his predecessor, Nazif Pasha. His last post was that of Governor of Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN

Inclosure in No. 286.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of November 9, 1881.

NOMINATIONS.—Rassis Pasha, Membre de la Commission des Travaux Publics, a été nommé Gouverneur-Général de la Tripolitaine, en remplacement de Nazif Pasha, relevé de ses fonctions.

No. 287.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 15, 1881.

WITH reference to my last Report upon the French military operations (No. 108 of the 1st instant) I have the honour to state that a division of 7,000 men under the immediate command of General Saurer and Fergand, accompanied by a convoy of 8,000 mules and pack animals, on the 10th instant or yesterday left Tunis to reach on the 23rd. Proceeding thence by way of Tozer, they will, it is said, enter the Algerine territory from that point, and arrive at Tibessa on or about the 4th December.

General Logerot, with 5,000 men, took his departure for Gabes two days later. He proceeds in a direct or southerly course, and is expected to reach that destination on the 4th December. From Gabes he will return along the coast northwards, and arrive, on or about the 20th December, at Susa.

The garrison at Kairwan is, I believe, to be immediately reduced to 3,500 men.

All the mosques and sanctuaries of that city are, I understand, occupied by French soldiers. The Bey's representative is a virtual nullity, and a French "Commandant de Place" rules in his stead. The last-mentioned functionary, it appears, has taken up his quarters in the hitherto highly venerated sanctuary of Sidi Abid, of which the actual Governor of Kairwan is the hereditary curator.

Notwithstanding all this, and the extreme severity with which they are apparently treated, the orderly and submissive attitude of the residents continues undisturbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Colonel Deedes to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 22.)

My Lord,

WFO Office, November 19, 1981

I AM directed by Mr Secretary Childers to forward for Lord Granville a perusal, the inclosed general Report on Tunis, which Sir William Gregory has been good enough to prepare for the Intelligence Department, and which is of interest as showing the probable direction of the further military operations of the French in that country.

2. I am to request that the Report and the accompanying map may be returned.

I have, &c
(Signed) H. G. DEEDES.

Inclosure in No. 282.

General Information by Sir W. Gregory on the Tribes, &c., of the Reglik of Tunis

2. Names and relative importance of the principal Tribes whether they are closely connected with the Tribes of Algeria and Tripoli

ABOUT 40 miles to the south of Timbuctoo are the Wandl and other small tribes. About 80 or 90 miles to the south-west of Timbuctoo, at the distance of about 30 miles from the French frontier, is the powerful tribe of the Dred, who boast to be of the eldest lineage, as descending from Ukhah, the conqueror of N. A. A. D. 170. The head of the Dred, when I was with them, informed me that his tribe numbered 10,000 souls. I daresay there is much exaggeration in this statement. He also told me of wars between the hills near El Kadi, (El Kadi) to the west, and the Wandl. By Casselot's route to the east. To the south of the Dred are the Wartan Arabs, a tribe from the east, about 120 miles to the south of Timbuctoo, and near to the French frontier, are the Mev Arabs. Neither of these tribes were described to me as particularly powerful. The Mev Arabs occupy the country between the French frontier and the town of Souda, the Kama Sidikah, (Kama Sidikah) on account of its riches. It will be found on the line of 35° north latitude.

Thirty miles to the south and to great distance from the French Fort is the powerful tribe of the *Paradesh*. They are famous for their breed of horses. But with the exception of their belonging to the Shukri and which I saw were poor enough. These Arabs are a bold and excellent horsemen, but I could obtain no information of their numbers, except that they are many in appearance. I did not think there could have been more than a 5000 souls in the one in which I stayed. Between the *Paradesh* and the *Gaza*

There are no other Auk tribes of importance between the Farasheesh and the Great Sahara, except the *Amazigh*, a nomadic tribe. I visited one of their encampments near the town of Ghazala, 35-45° north latitude, and found them sick, in poverty and squabbling, badly armed and heavily taxed. But they are numerous, and spread to as the French frontier to the north of the Sand Lake of Marks Shebkanah-Leoneah, harassing the country even to the Gulf of Timor.

There are no other Arab tribes in the interior and country skirting the Great Sahara to the north in which the Beni-el-Mezel, by far the most powerful tribe in the Beylek of Tunis. When I was in Tunis in 1868 they were virtually independent of the Bey, and I was strongly warned by the Haganess not to approach their country. I was, however, forced to do so, in order to reach the sea at the town of Kairouan, Kairouan, and experienced from them the greatest kindness, in fact they even allowed me to remain with them longer than I intended, in order to hunt and hawk with them. Their encampment was of great size, they were not only nomads, but had many fine flocks of sheep and herds of camels. Their sheikhs told me that this encampment was only a portion of their tribe, and that their power extended to the confines of Tripoli.

To the north of the Beylik are the Ouled and Wabed Sads occupying the country along the sea-coast to near Karkar, where the Suas Arabs come in. The Wabed Sads are by no means friendly to the Suas and are reported to be the worst kind of a tribe in the Beylik. They dwell around Es Djem, the ancient Tyndrus. To the

* From "Values" of Romans.

Although there was a considerable space between my route from Tuins southward to the great desert at no distance from the French frontier, and from the Great Desert northward to Tuins by the Gulf of Tripoli, I am almost sure that I came across all the tribes of any importance.

I did not gather from the conversation I held with the women in Tunis that there was any connection between them and the Algerian Arabs. They indicated no objection to all intercourse with the inhabitants of Algeria and the Benizidj and gave me no information of the country within the frontier of Tripoli.

2 Have they a better Reputation for fighting than the Algerian Arabs

I should say quite the reverse. I have no doubt the Farsi, Shid and Benad Arabs would fight bravely and be very formidable were they properly armed, but "the tame Arabs," as they called those who were less migratory and more settled at the towns, would be of little fighting value. As an example, I met a caravan of more than 1000 people, the arms and ammunition of the Arabs in 1878. They had no rifles, only the long single barrel flint gun, and the powder was extremely bad. They were very bold, but they would cause serious inconvenience by making swoops or foraging and wintering parties, and by cutting off such lines, but I cannot believe they would offer serious resistance to European troops unless the latter were largely outnumbered. An attack on Karwan meant only a desperate, reckless bravery, but hardly anything long or serious. In the North of Africa, and even in Karwan itself, there would arise a desire to smother rebellion. North of Africa, and even in Karwan itself, there would arise a desire to smother rebellion. North of Africa, and even in Karwan itself, there would arise a desire to smother rebellion.

3 Are these any Tribes in the Forest where you live? Just as you can see each one of the
Ankles of us, are they? Let us see if you can find them out. And
you will find them common enough with the Tribes.

There are no traces of the Boyaks to be seen in Egypt. Kahlil's people, I know of no traces of either. I have only been to the Khoran country, I never heard of them. The Arabs in the Moorish population, the Arabs, and the Arabs people, are the two races with which I came in contact. The Arabs and Moors would be common cause.

4. Name of the paper: Time and the essence of power, what can where an effective blow could best be
delivered at the 19th June

Undoubtedly the great blow which would be struck at Arab power would be at Karwan. It could not be far from the frontier of the valley between Gabel War and the Qassab. The distance from the coast to Karwan is about 110 miles, and it is with

The composition of the two kinds of steel and the amount of the path length will vary with the loss of the thickness of the block. From some samples would be made of from each of the two kinds of steel. The thickness of the steel is 1/4 inch. The amount of the path length would be 1/4 inch. The amount of the path length would be 1/4 inch. The amount of the path length would be 1/4 inch.

To be sure, the U.S. has a long history of supporting democracy in the Americas. But the current administration's policies are a stark departure from the bipartisan tradition of U.S. support for democratic values in the region. The U.S. has a unique opportunity to lead by example and promote democratic values in the Americas. It is time to recommit ourselves to this noble cause.

Lord ...
 success ...
 the ...
 the ...

31. a. (0.03, 1.1) b. 0.03 c. 1.1
32. a. 0.03 b. 1.1
33. a. 0.03 b. 1.1
34. a. 0.03 b. 1.1

[illegible]

pass by which access may be had to the north river and sea from the R. and
the R. was the most direct way to the sea and the only one that
was open to the public as a navigation opportunity. b. 1

22

Province. We were struck with the admirable position of this place, and the Romans kept it up as a garrison town, as Tacitus mentions it as such.

I have said that this place could be easily reached from Tebessa, and there would be but little difficulty about water. Sallust, however, writing of the capture of this city, says that "Metellus was aware of the dry and desert nature of the country between Thala (Thaleh) and the nearest river, which was distant about 50 Roman miles." He therefore had his baggage animals relieved of all their burdens except provender for ten days, and had them laden with skins and utensils necessary for the carriage of water; but Metellus was marching from the north.

About 50 miles to the south of Thala there was another strong garrison town in the time of the Romans at Feriana. The town lies at the foot of the pass, which was fortified, and must have been, judging from the remains, a place of considerable strength.

To the south of Feriana, at a distance of about 32 miles, is the town of Ghafsa, formerly the stronghold and treasury of Jugurtha. This is also well watered and is fortified. The march to it would be most harassing from want of water, and its occupation would be unnecessary, although it is the only large town in the south-western portion of the Beylick.

The result of my observation is this: that with a force occupying Thala, Sbaitla, and Kairwan, the Arab tribes to the north and south of these positions could be kept in order without difficulty. Kairwan could be supplied from the sea at Sousse (Susa), and there is plenty of water at Sbaitla, which would be the apex of the triangle. These places are easily reached from each other, and expeditions from them to the most fertile portions of the Beylick would starve the Arabs into submission, as their crops would be at the mercy of the garrisons.

5. *Nature of Country that must be traversed to approach these Towns, and whether supplies and water for a strong column are available en route? Can wheeled Vehicles be used?*

I have partially answered this question under No. 4.

Kairwan can be reached from Sousse without any difficulty; the country is flat, and there are no rivers to cross.

Battering guns could be brought up with ease. There are two other modes of reaching this point, one from Zaghuan, 26 miles from Tunis. The march from thence to Kairwan is at first through a mountainous country, in which transport is difficult. By far the easiest way, although the longest, is from Tunis to Solyman, thence to Hammamet. From Hammamet there is no difficulty, and there is actually a road from Tunis to Hammamet, about 40 miles in length.

There is plenty of water all the way.

A column entering Tunisian territory at El Kef from Algeria would have no impediment, an advance northwards is easy by the banks of the Medjerda.

There would be rough country to be travelled should a column take this route to Thala, but when the pass of Akroub is crossed (and it presents no real obstacle) the rest of the way will be readily got over.

Thala, as I said before, may also be reached via Tebessa from Algeria through the plain of Hedera, or Ayedrah. There is no want of water during winter by this route.

No supplies can be reckoned on.

As a general rule wheeled vehicles may be used, though the soil is very tenacious after rain. Over the passes there are the remains of Roman roads, which could be made traversable. Light artillery could be carried with ease, and no other would be requisite.

6. *Means of Transport generally employed. If Mules are used, do they require much grain, and can this be obtained readily?*

Camels are universally employed, and are very numerous. Mules are not used, and grain can only be obtained with the greatest difficulty, and in small quantities.

7. *Is the supply of Horses plentiful?*

No. It is very difficult to obtain horses in any quantity. They are generally small and bad.

* This river was the Bagradas, undoubtedly the present Medjerda.

8. *As regards Climate, for how many of the winter months could operations be carried on in the southern portion of the Province?*

I should think European troops could carry on operations from November to the middle of April with perfect ease, the only drawback being want of water, to which I have already referred.

9. *Are Epidemics of frequent occurrence, and which are the most prevalent? Is Fever to be dreaded, and at what seasons?*

I believe that the climate of Tunis is most healthy. Fever is not to be dreaded in the north, but in the south it is very prevalent during the summer. Diarrhoea is common in the south also during the summer. Very many persons came to me for medicine to cure fever from the time of my arrival at Ghafsa until I left the Beled at Disered. I had Dover powders with me, and every one who took them recovered immediately. Epidemics are very rare.

10. *The Fuel supply?*

This would be only required for cooking purposes, for, though the nights are chilly, the cold is not severe. Throughout the whole of my journey I never found any scarcity of fuel. There is brushwood and scrub everywhere.

(Signed) W. H. GREGORY.

September 30, 1881.

No. 289

Lord Tenterden to Messrs. Perry and Bury.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, November 23, 1881.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant relative to the losses sustained by you at Sfax and other places on the coast of Tunis owing to the proceedings of the French military authorities, and I am to inform you that the matter is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 290.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 606)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 23, 1881.

THE Italian Ambassador spoke to me this afternoon about Tunis. He asked me if I had received any information of a Decree by the Bey requiring foreigners to submit their cases to the French Consular Court.

I said that we had received no intelligence of such a measure. In reply to a further inquiry on his Excellency's part, I said that as yet no claims had, as far as I was aware, been made by British subjects for compensation on account of murders committed in the Principality.

General Menabrea then asked me what I thought was the meaning of the declaration made by M. Gambetta in the French Chambers of the intention of the new Ministry to adhere to the principle of the Convention made by their predecessors. Did I suppose that the policy thus foreshadowed implied a continuation of the French Protectorate or annexation?

I said that in my opinion, as I thought he already knew, it was not very material whether the French did or did not resort to annexation. Such a measure would have some drawbacks, but also some advantages, which were not attendant upon the present arrangement. We had obtained no promise from the French Government that all our Treaty rights should be respected, and that stipulation we must maintain in either case; but, looking to the natural meaning of the words, I thought that the intention announced was probably that of abiding by the Protectorate as it at present existed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

(No. 1049.)

Paris, November 23, 1891.

The note contains the remark that although a *liminaire* (preliminary) misunderstanding at the last sitting prevented the *procès-verbaux* being signed, the French Government does not consider that the moral authority of the decisions previously come to by the Commission ought to be weakened thereby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS

Inclosure in No. 291

[M. Gambetta to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 22 Novembre, 1951

D'après les rapports qui m'ont été adressés, le mandat confié à cette Commission, et qui consistait dans la constatation des dommages occasionnés par l'insurrection de Sfax et la répression qui s'en est suivie, a été régulièrement rempli dans ses conditions primitivement fixées. Le Gouvernement de la République n'est donc pas d'avis qu'il y ait lieu de réunir de nouveau la Commission. Il est vrai qu'à la suite d'un regrettable malentendu survenu au cours de la dernière séance entre quelques-uns de ses membres, les procès-verbaux qui avaient été préalablement adoptés à l'unanimité des voix sont restés sans signature. Mais il ne nous paraît pas que cette circonstance doive influencer l'autorité morale des conclusions auxquelles la Commission est parvenue, et nous considérons comme entièrement terminé le travail auquel elle avait été chargée de procéder.

Agréol, &c.
(Signé) LÉON GAMBETTA.

No. 252.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 97.)

Targoviz, November 19, 1981.

WITH reference to the despatches marked in the margin,* I have the honour to inform your Lordships that in the course of a conference I had yesterday with the French Charge d'Affaires, M. de la Houlière, I mentioned that I had observed in several journals a report that a large French force, with provisions for a month, had marched upon Yche,† and that it was alleged that Figue and Ahiméy Taret, were of the rebel nation. I added I attached little credit to the report of a march on the latter places, yet there would appear to be some foundation regarding a French force having arrived at Yche,‡ which site I observed, was within the Morocco frontier and I asked if he had received any reliable tidings regarding these reports.

M. de la Boulianière replied that he had not, but that he believed Yiche was considered to be within the Algerine boundary, some understanding having been come to, as he alleged, in 1870, when a French force passed the Maroccan frontier, "with the permission of the Sultan," and penetrated as far as Ain Sbeir, in the district of Figuig.

At my request, M. de la Boulipière indicated more or less the points on a map of the

* Sir J. Drummond Hay, No. 77, August 27, No. 79, September 29, Private letter, September 27; Earl Cranville, No. 23, 1 October, November 13, 1881.

↑ latitude about 32° 30'

† In a French map of the "Département de la Guinée," published in 1848, Yacine is situated about 10 miles

laid down in that map. It is about 60 miles north-east of Figueira and 160 of

I inquired whether any Convention or formal transaction had been made by the Sultan of this new boundary. He replied that he could not give me precise information, but that he believed many men in Algeria considered Y. A. to be within their boundary, and that the Sultan had raised no objection as the tribes of these districts did not submit to the Sultan's authority.

I observed that serious complications might arise if the Chénouas of the French forces in Algeria advanced into Moroccan territory to pursue Abdou Aram or other Chiefs, even though the population in regions where these Chiefs lived might not be subservient to the Sultan's authority, as such a step might create strong feelings of fanaticism throughout the whole of Morocco and might result in the deposition of the Sultan and consequent state of chaos. I further noted that the pursuit of these Arab Chiefs would be most persistent and could lead to other evils. I reached, after great difficulty, the rock where the bird had gone. On the way I had two to a more distant point. I gained that site, but the eagle had returned to the rock on which I first saw him." Such, I said, would be the result of a pursuit of these Chiefs.

M. de la Bouliènière said he did not believe that his Government would authorize the French troops to cross the Morocco frontier, for the instructions he had received on leaving Paris were to exert himself to "maintain friendly relations with the Sultan, and that, the Minister added, England and France have the same interest in maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco; we wish you, therefore, to keep on friendly terms with the English Minister."

I replied that it was a great satisfaction to me to know that such directions had been given him, as my general instructions were of the same tenour, and that I was instructed to counsel the Sultan and his Ministers to prevent, as far as it may be in their power, acts of aggression from the Moorish tribes on the Algerine frontier, and to maintain friendly relations with France. I added that I might also tell him, in confidence, that the assurances he had given me regarding the peaceful intentions of the French Government have very lately been confirmed by the language held by the French Government of their own, and, therefore, as I had observed to him in the course of our conversation, I could not give credence to the reports in the journals, for French and English statesmen were too well known to each other in order to deceive or to cloak their intended action.

the language, and though I believe M. de la Bousinière to be an honourable man, yet I have received a confidential communication from him, which rather leads me to suppose that even M. de la Bousinière's visit to the Morocco territory may, sooner or later, take place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 254

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons

(No. 1154)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 26, 1941

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., of Liverpool, in relation to the losses alleged to have been sustained by them in consequence of the bombardment and occupation of Sfax, and the occupation of other places on the Tunisian coast by the French.

I have to request that your Excellency will, in the first place, inquire of the French Government whether they are now prepared to deal with these and any similar claims at once if brought before them through the British Embassy, or whether they propose any other course.

(Signed) GRAYVILLE.

■ Letter 3 10

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to call your Lordship's attention to some of the latest proceedings of the French Resident in Tunis.

A week ago he induced the Bey to appoint the so-called Colonel Joseph Allegro Governor of the Arad, which is the province adjoining the Tripolitan frontier. This man's antecedents are most unenviable. As Tunisian Consul at Bonn he notoriously betrayed the Bey, and acted as M. Roustan's instrument in bringing about the so-called Kroumir raids which led to the invasion of the country. His present appointment may, at any moment, lead to serious difficulties, if, indeed, some troubles in the direction of Tripoli are not already within the scope of the Resident Minister's plans.

I am further informed that M. Roustan has applied for the appointment of his confidential interpreter, M. Samir, to be the Resident Minister of the Ouzan-el-Zira, a district which extends from Hamamet to Cape Bon and the eastern shore of the Bay of Tunis, and the nomination of General Elias Musalli to the Caïdat of the Sahel, the richest province of the Regency. Of the last-mentioned person I need say very little. Ten years ago he was dismissed from the Bey's service, at the demand of Vte. Bismilieu, the then French Chargé d'Affaires, for a petty theft of 1,500 piastres (37l. 10s.), and, in the recent history of this country, the part he and his wife have played is now a matter of public notoriety.

Colonel Allegro's appointment, and the rumored appointment of M. Samir and Elias for the other two posts, have given rise to the part of almost the whole European colony, and, as I am also given to understand, of the general body of French military officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 295.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28, 11-20 P.M.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, November 28, 1881, 3-10 P.M.

A TELEGRAM announcing the decision of the French Cabinet to recall M. Roustan was received some days ago by the Havas Agent, but has been withheld from publicity. It is believed that, in consequence of misrepresentations as to the state of affairs, the continued presence here of that officer is regarded by the French Foreign Office as a necessity.

No. 296.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 29.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, November 26, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter dated the 9th instant, from Captain Tryon (Her Majesty's ship "Monarch"), senior officer on the coast of Tunis, reporting the state of affairs at Sfax, and generally in those parts of the Regency occupied by the French troops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Captain Tryon to Vice-Admiral Sir H. Seymour.

Sir,

"Monarch," at Sfax, November 9, 1881.

IN compliance with your directions to report the condition of affairs at Sfax, there is but little, if any, change since the French garrisoned Sfax.

A few Arabs have nominally given in. Caïd Gelluh is the nominal Civil Governor, but he is practically powerless, and does what he is told.

3. The French troops march out occasionally, and return usually with a prisoner or two, and a few animals and trifles that they pick up.

4. The Arabs who are actively hostile keep a few hundred men before the French adopted this plan, but it is not sufficient to hold the limits of the town.

5. The condition throughout the Regency is the same. There is no safety beyond the French camp. The population is small, and the people are not numerous, and more commercial people who are not numerous.

6. Of the large French force before Kroumir I have not seen any formation, beyond that columns have been detached from it, and are sweeping towards the sea; and it is reported by Arabs that General Logerot is at Djidjida, which requires confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

P.S.—I have this moment heard that it is General Forgemol who is stated to be at Djem, and he is marching in this direction with 6,000 men. If this is true, this column is probably composed of troops from Algeria, who advanced from Tébessa on Kroumir.

No. 297.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 111.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a notice, which has been extensively circulated in this city during the past two or three days, calling for tenders for the supply of stores to the French troops.

Your Lordship will observe that foreign subjects making such tenders are required to undertake to submit entirely to the French criminal as well as civil jurisdiction. As this is hereafter cause some serious misunderstanding, I have felt it my duty to call your Lordship's attention to the fact, and ask for any instructions you may be pleased to give me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 298.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 116.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I received, some days ago, from Captain Tryon, reporting the state of affairs at Sfax, and generally in those parts of the Regency occupied by the French troops. I have also to inclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to the French Minister Resident in acknowledgment of the signal service to which I have referred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 300.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 86.)

I HAVE received your despatch No. 97 of the 19th instant, reporting your conversation with the *Procureur d'Alger* on the subject of a rumour that the French forces had, in pursuit of certain Arab Chouas, entered into Morocco territory, and I approve the language which you held to M. de la Boulinière on that occasion.

1 am, &c
CLANVILLE.

No 301.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

H/r

ON the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, asking what instructions should be given to Captain Tryon as to the papers and Reports connected with the S. A. Commission, Lord Grenville instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris to ascertain from the French Government whether there was any intention of resuming the negotiations of the Congress.

I am now directed by His Majesty's Government to send you a copy of a despatch from Lord Lyons forward of the reply of the French Government to the declaration of the decision that they consider the Commission of Enquiry is not competent to inquire into the decision arrived at by the Tribunal. It should be made clear, however, that the fact that the Commission is not competent to inquire into the decision arrived at by the Tribunal does not mean that the Commission is not competent to inquire into the facts of the case.

I am to request you to suggest to the Lords of the Admiralty that in these circumstances, Captain Tryon may be instructed by telegraph to send home the Reports and papers at once.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

Earl Grantville to General Menabrea.

Foreign Office, November 30, 1881.

Dear General Menabrea,

I ENCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, transmitting a copy of a note from M. Gambetta, containing a reply to the inquiry which Lord Lyons had been directed to make as to whether it was the intention of the French Government that the meetings of the Sfax Commission should be resumed.*

Believe me, &c
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 303.

Lord Tenterden to Chevalier Arbib.

Foreign Office, November 30, 1881.

412

Sir, I AM directed by Earl Granville to inquire, with reference to your verbal application of yesterday, whether your claim for compensation for damage suffered by your firm at Sfax was laid before the Commission which was sitting at that place to investigate such cases. In the event of this course not having been adopted, I am to suggest that you should submit a statement of your claim for Lord Granville's consideration.

I am, &c.
S. J. T. TENTLEDEN.

1948]

(and Lyons is for sure to win a Pulitzer Prize.)

[No. 1050.]

(Extract)

Paris, December 2, 1881

THE Chamber of Deputies yesterday passed a Bill granting supplementary credits for the Tunisian and Oran for 1891, and extraordinary credits for military operations in Tunisia for the month of January 1892.

The debate elicited from M. Gambetta, who spoke four times in the course of it, some general declarations respecting the intentions of the present Government with respect to Tunis.

He declared distinctly that, on the one hand, France would not abandon the Protectorate and that, on the other hand, she would not abandon the Treaty of the 12th May, 1881.

On 1 May the Treaty of the 12th May, 1881, was confirmed in the following terms —

que l'annexion ne paraissant la plus lourde des charges, en serait
 la substitution violente de la France au Gouvernement royal,
 qui effrayerait la dynastie, qu'elle affronterait les républicains, et
 qu'elle se trouverait en face des autres Puissances européennes
 et de toutes les nations qui ont subi toutes les Conquêtes
 antérieures et locales et que, par conséquent, elle ne pourrait pas
 conquête et l'occupation de l'Algérie.

After stating that the military operations were approaching a conclusion ("touchaient à leur terme"), and eulogizing the conduct of the troops, M. Gambetta went on to say that when the pacification of the Regency was complete, a plan for the execution of the Treaty of May would be submitted to the French Chambers by the

Je résume les principales objections de what the nature of the plan would be:—
 Le bien! Tout est bien! Mais, comme je l'ai dit, très nettement que le Gouvernement
 français est en mesure de le faire passer, et il est bon de le faire passer, dans la
 Régence de Tunis, la réforme financière, qu'il ne l'a été, par exemple, en Egypte.

"Je ne vois pas pourquoi on ne pourrait pas appeler du dehors et introduire dans ce pays de bons Agents, des Administrateurs habiles et sages, afin d'y établir un contrôle sérieux en s'assurant de l'exacte probité des préposés et aux Douanes et à la perception de l'impôt; je ne sais pas pourquoi l'on ne pourrait pas en même temps soulager ces malheureuses populations comme on a soulagé les malheureux fellahs du Nil, en apportant dans la Régence à la fois la justice pour les contribuables et la prospérité pour le pays."

"Je ne serais donc pas fâché de voir introduire là une organisation de Tribunaux Mixtes, non pas sur le plan de l'Égypte, parce que le pays de la Régence n'est pas assez avancé pour supporter une organisation aussi complète, mais, enfin, une ébauche de justice mixte."

No. 305.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 110.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 28, 1881.

A TELEGRAM, which for some reason or other has been withheld from general publicity, reached the Havas Agency at this place some days ago, announcing the decision of the French Council to recall M. READE. It is, I am sure, that some misrepresentation of the state of affairs has led the French Foreign Office to regard that officer's continued presence in Tunis as an absolute necessity.

I have,
(Signed) THOS. F. READE

No. 306.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 431. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, November 30, 1881.

M. MANCINI is very indignant, as your Lordship will have gathered from the communications of General Menabrea, at the abrupt termination of the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry at Sfax.

His Excellency spoke to me on the subject in an interview I had with him yesterday, and informed me that he had addressed an instruction to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires in Paris to make a representation respecting it to M. Gambetta.

M. Mancini contends, in the first place, that the President of the Commission exceeded the Powers with which he was invested. The Commission had been the result of agreements established between the three Governments, it would have been almost a stretch of authority on the part even of one of these Governments to have brought it to an end without the consent of the other two; how much less, therefore, could it be admitted that one of the members of the Commission, who was only there to carry out the inquiry for which the Commission had been instituted, should, of his own act, suddenly put an end to it. The fact of the French Delegate being the President of the Commission gave him no more right to adopt this course than was possessed by any other member of it.

Only in one case, M. Mancini went on to say, would he consent to the inquiry not being further proceeded with, viz., if the French Government would acknowledge that the sufferers by the pillage of Sfax were entitled to compensation. It was a matter of indifference to him whether this compensation were paid by the French Government or the Government of the Bey. He had himself, he said, taken means to ascertain who were the real culprits, and the result of the evidence of about forty witnesses, who had been examined before the persons whom he had charged to make inquiries, went to show that it was the French troops and sailors who were solely responsible for the depredations which had been committed. He quite understood that the French Government might object to disclosures coming to light which would reflect dishonour on the reputation of the French army and navy, and it was the fear of these disclosures, he presumed, which had induced the President of the Commission to put an end to its proceedings.

If the French Government would consent to acknowledge the principle of compen-

sation, he would, he said, keep the results of his own inquiry secret, as they were at present, but, if the French Government refused to make this acknowledgment he should then feel himself at liberty to cast off all reserve and the truth would come out in the diplomatic correspondence which he would probably be called upon to produce for the Italian Parliament; and Baron Marchetti, his Excellency added, had been desired to state this distinctly to M. Gambetta.

I have, &c
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 307.

The Chevalier Arbib to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 6.)

My Lord,

46, St. Mary Axe, December 2, 1881.

IN reply to your esteemed favour of the 30th ultimo, I inclose, for submission to Lord Granville, a statement of the claims of the firm of E. and E. Arbib.

(Signed) SALVATORE ARBIB.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Messrs. Arbib to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

46, St. Mary Axe, December 2, 1881.

IN reply to the request contained in Lord Tenterden's letters of the 30th ultimo, addressed to the Chevalier Arbib, of 5, Craven Hill, Hyde Park, we beg to submit the following statement of our claims for your consideration.

We took under the name of E. and E. Arbib, at 46, St. Mary Axe, London, and at 7, Brize Close Street, Manchester.

The constituents of our firm are "Eugene Arbib" and "Edward Arbib." We have commercial connections at Sfax and Gabès, and at the Tunisian coast, our trade there being principally in Esparto grass. Our course of trading is as follows.

We advance money to a firm of merchants at Tripoli, who will purchase Esparto grass to be conveyed to us. We charter vessels for the carriage of the grass to England, where it is sold. A balance of the purchase money is then paid to the commission the principal money advanced, and the interest thereon is repaid by us to the firm in Tripoli, either in specie or in goods, as may be directed by them.

At the time of the recent bombardment of Sfax by the French army, our correspondents had a large quantity of Esparto grass purchased with our money ready for shipment to us, and we had actually chartered vessels for its transmission to England. The Tripoli firm had also in their hands considerable sums of money transmitted by us for the purchase of other quantities of Esparto grass. During the bombardment the grass then ready for shipment was burnt.

The French, on learning that the town of Sfax was the seat of a large quantity of Esparto grass, broke open the safe in which the grass was stored, and carried away the money ready for shipment to us. Of the money in the safe, the French Government has not yet returned the balance, and the Tripoli firm has not yet received the balance of the purchase money.

We should be glad to see as backed by Lord Granville's support, the Tripoli firm brought forward by the French Government, and the interest thereon repaid by us to the firm in Tripoli, either in specie or in goods, as may be directed by them.

We are, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servants,
E. and E. ARBIB.

We should be glad if some steps could be taken to secure our interests in connection with the grass at Gabès also.

We remain, &c
(Signed) E. and E. ARBIB.

No. 308.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 188.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 7, 1881.

I HAD the day before yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 1154 of the 26th ultimo, in which you direct me to inquire in what manner the

[1265]

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French Government propose that claims arising out of the operations of the French forces at Sfax and other places on the Tunisian coast should be brought before them.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a note which I have addressed in consequence to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Lord Lyons to M. Gambetta.

M. le Président du Conseil.

Paris, December 5, 1881

A BRITISH firm has submitted to Her Majesty's Government a statement of losses alleged to have been sustained by it in consequence of the bombardment and occupation of Sfax and other places on the Tunisian coast by the French forces.

I have in consequence been directed by Her Majesty's Government to inquire of your Excellency whether the French Government are now prepared to deal with claims of this kind at once, if brought before them by this Embassy, or whether they propose another course.

I shall be very much obliged if your Excellency will enable me to give my Government early information on the subject.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 309

Count Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received December 7)

M. le Comte,

35, Queen's Gate, London.—5 Décembre, 1881

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception, et de remercier votre Excellence, de la lettre du 30 du mois dernier, par laquelle elle a bien voulu me transmettre la copie d'une note du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la République Française, contenant une réponse à la demande de Lord Lyons relative à la reprise des séances de la Commission de Sfax.

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur d'en informer votre Excellence en plusieurs occasions, le Gouvernement du Roi a toujours eu le plus vif désir de marcher d'accord avec le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine pour la reprise des séances de cette affaire. Toutefois, comme il s'agit d'intérêts très importants, le Gouvernement du Roi a cru devoir consulter le Conseil des Ministres, et le Conseil a décidé qu'il était nécessaire de faire les démarches nécessaires pour que le Gouvernement du Roi puisse intervenir dans la reprise des séances de la Commission de Sfax. En conséquence, le Baron Marchetti a été chargé de se rendre à Paris pour donner les instructions nécessaires au Gouvernement du Roi pour qu'il puisse intervenir dans la reprise des séances de la Commission de Sfax. Le Baron Marchetti a été chargé de se rendre à Paris pour donner les instructions nécessaires au Gouvernement du Roi pour qu'il puisse intervenir dans la reprise des séances de la Commission de Sfax. Le Baron Marchetti a été chargé de se rendre à Paris pour donner les instructions nécessaires au Gouvernement du Roi pour qu'il puisse intervenir dans la reprise des séances de la Commission de Sfax.

Il restera au Gouvernement Français de décider si, dans les rapports avec le Bey, qui doit effectivement supporter les frais des démarches, il est possible de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Bey. En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Bey, je saisis cette occasion pour vous renouveler, M. le Comte, les assurances, &c.

L. F. MENABREA.

No. 310

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1193.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 8, 1881.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Tunis, inclosing a Report from Captain Tryon, in which

attention is called to the valuable assistance afforded by the French naval and military forces during a fire which recently broke out at Sfax, on the premises of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.,* and I have to request that your Excellency will convey to the French Government the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for the timely service rendered to British subjects on the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 311.

Sir R. Malet to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 367. Confidential)

Cairo, December 5, 1881

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 163 of the 2nd September, and to my despatch No. 17 of the 6th March, I have the honour to inform you that Chérif Pasha told me yesterday that he had written to M. Sienkiewicz, the French colleague, on the subject of imposing a house tax on the French subjects in Egypt, which had much annoyed him, and which threatened to make an unpleasant situation.

He said that he had written to M. Sienkiewicz, the French colleague, on the subject of imposing a house tax on the French subjects in Egypt, which had much annoyed him, and which threatened to make an unpleasant situation.

His Excellency said that M. Sienkiewicz had said that the assessment of the house tax should be made by a Committee, and that the foreign consuls should be represented in the Committee, and that the Committee should be represented in the Council to discuss the matter.

The right of the French Government to protect Tunisians has not as yet been recognized by the Egyptian Government, who have maintained that they cannot do so unless instructed by the Porte. There are, his Excellency said, upwards of 4,000 Tunisians in Egypt. M. Sienkiewicz had said that only 400 of these have inscribed themselves on the register of the Consulate, and that he did not intend to mount the matter with the Porte, but that, with regard to these 400, they must be protected like other French subjects, particularly in this matter of the house tax. Chérif Pasha had replied that once the principle admitted, it would not be possible for M. Sienkiewicz to limit the number to whom it applied.

His Excellency complained very bitterly of the action of the French in this matter from the beginning, and contrasted it with that of Her Majesty's Government, and he said that he should be very grateful should it be possible for your Lordship to come to his assistance by asking the French Government to allow the questions of the house tax and the protection of Tunisians to be treated separately.

I have since spoken to M. Sienkiewicz on the matter, and he confirms the fact that the two questions have been mixed together, but he stated that he had in no way made the consent of his Government to the house tax dependent on the recognition of the right of French protection of Tunisians.

The matter had come up incidentally, and he had said that the protection of Tunisians must be protected in the assessment of the house tax, but he had told Chérif Pasha that he could not urge on his Government the recognition of the principle of the protection of Tunisians. He said that he did not intend to allow further registrations of Tunisians to take place, and that he did not see any way the protection of Tunisians already inscribed should interfere with the imposition of the tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 312

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(Excerpt of Telegram No. 113.)

Tunis, December 8, 1881.

My Lord,

M. ROUSTAN took his departure for France this day

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

* No. 113.

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic)

AN Arab servant of the British Consulate Agent at Hammamet [sic] has been killed in the manner described in the public papers.

I am in communication with the Tunisian Government on the subject, and will report fully as soon as possible.

It appears the arrest was effected by Tunisian officials, who handed the man over to the French for execution.

No. 314.

(No. 501.)

Sir,

Sir, THE Italian Ambassador asked me to-day whether I had noticed the passage in M. Gambetta's speech on Tunis, in which he stated that all the Powers, with the exception of Italy, had recognized the Bardo Treaty, and whether I considered the statement to be accurate, so far as England was concerned?

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had not given a formal recognition of the Treaty, but that we had treated it as a "fait accompli." Our language on the subject was contained in the despatches already laid before Parliament.

I am, &c.

(Signed) **GRANVILLE.**

No 315.

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

My Lord, I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I learn, from an authentic source, that a French column, consisting of 7,000 men, under General Logerot, St Jean, and Sébattier, marching from Kiriwan, arrived on the 1st instant at Hammah, near Gabes, within about 35 miles of the Tripoli frontier, and was expected to attack a body of some 30,000 Arabs who have taken refuge in the mountainous district on the frontier.

If hard pressed, there is every probability of the whole Arab forces taking refuge in this province.

Reinforcements of Turkish troops are being dispatched to the frontier, bringing up the number at the point menaced to 2,500 regulars.

The total number of Turkish troops in the province is 9,500.

Annad Rastan Pasha, the Vahi newly appointed to succeed Nazif Pasha who was recalled, it is said, at the instance of the French Government, arrived on the 29th of June.

The occupation of Karwan has naturally irritated the Mussulmans of all denominations here, but perfect order continues to be maintained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 316.

(No. 2115)

My Love,

IN my despatch No. 1050 of the 2nd instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Chamber of Deputies had passed, the day before, a Bill granting supplementary credits for the military expenditures in Tarrs and Orma for 1881, and extraordinary credits for military operations in Tarrs for the month of January 1882.

The Bill having been sent up to the Senate was passed yesterday by that body, after a debate of two days.

In reply, M. Gambetta denounced the Tunis expedition and demanded that the Protectorate established by the Treaty was equivalent to an occupation.

In particular he denied that the reorganization of the Tunisian Debt, which the French Government purposed to undertake, required a partition or liquidation of the Regency. He refused to enter into any discussion on general terms as follows:—

[illegible]

Subsequently M Gambetta guarded himself against being supposed to have implied that he considered the Anglo-French Control in Egypt to form a model to be introduced into Tunis. He insisted that the system to be adopted in Tunis was a reserved question.

(b) The position of England with regard to the Tunis Protectorate, he spoke in the following terms:

* L'Angleterre a reconnu le Traité du Bardo; elle est, je crois, au point de vue de l'œuvre que nous accomplissons dans la Régence, parfaitement rassurée et parfaitement éclairée; elle a reçu—sur votre interpellation (cependant, la réponse de l'honorable M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire avait précédé)—les garanties qui pouvaient la toucher au sujet de la France.

After saying that he is in a friendly understanding with Italy respecting Tunis, M. Gambetta proceeds to draw a parallel between the conduct of France with regard to Tunis and that of England with regard to Egypt.

178. *Illustr.* Mr. Gladstone

Illustré Mr. Gladstone
 "A lui aussi, on avait légué une affaire très ardue — celle du Transvaal — on l'honneur
 et les intérêts Anglais étaient sérieusement, gravement engagés. Il a bien entendu qu'il a,
 en arrivant au pouvoir, reculé devant le mouvement d'humeur qu'il allait provoquer chez
 ce peuple d'Anglais et d'Américains, même et surtout dans l'adversité, en lui proposant
 une solution si sage, si modérée, et cela l'honneur; vous l'en avez honoré, et
 vous l'en avez fait."

Alors, je me contenterais bien, M. le Duc de Broglie, du Traité qui n'est pas la question de Transvaal; et si vous voulez accepter que, nous montrant sur cet illustre exemplaire, les Anglais ont signé l'Article II, je suis prêt à y consentir, car il y a cela de certain que les Anglais ont signé le Traité du Bord de l'Oranger, et qu'ils ont signé l'Article II.

Je comprends très bien l'importance de cette opération aussi importante que celle du Transvaal ait trouvé son point d'appui dans un Traité comme celui-ci. Je crois que cet acte, qui nous a été communiqué par l'acte de son Excellence le Gouverneur, est une sorte de moyen international de règlement des différends qui peuvent être nées entre les deux nations. Il y a eu un acte de médiation entre les deux nations, les deux gouvernements qui s'y trouvent engagés, et qui ont été dirigés contre l'ennemi commun, le Mexique. C'est un acte de médiation dirigé contre l'ennemi commun, le Mexique. C'est un acte de médiation dirigé contre l'ennemi commun, le Mexique.

M. Aureo de Herdich M. Gambell M. J. G. P.

M. de Kerdrel read a declaration on behalf of the High Court of Justice, in which the court stated that, as matters stood they could not refuse to vote the credit, they proposed that the financial and other proceedings in the matter of the late and the present Governor

Finally, the Bill was passed unanimously.
I enclose the authentic Reports in extenso of both days' debates.

I have, etc.

(Signed) LYONS.

(N_D 97.)

('Telegraphic.)

Paris, December 14, 1891, 4:30 p.m.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1199 of the 10th, M. Gambetta authorizes me to assure your Lordship categorically that the French Government is quite resolved not to touch Tunis [*sic* ? Morocco].

No. 318.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 15.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, December 15, 1881.

IN accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 30th ultimo, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward, for the information of Earl Granville, the papers relating to the Slax Commission this day received from Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF PAPERS

| Page | Number | Subject |
|------|--------|----------------|
| 1 | 1 | Index of names |
| 2 | 2 | Index of names |
| 3 | 3 | Index of names |
| 4 | 4 | Index of names |
| 5 | 5 | Index of names |
| 6 | 6 | Index of names |
| 7 | 7 | Index of names |
| 8 | 8 | Index of names |
| 9 | 9 | Index of names |
| 10 | 10 | Index of names |
| 11 | 11 | Index of names |
| 12 | 12 | Index of names |
| 13 | 13 | Index of names |
| 14 | 14 | Index of names |
| 15 | 15 | Index of names |

(Signed) G. TRYON,
Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Texas.

[N.B.—Only Inclosures 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 are printed.]

enclosure 9 in No. 318.

Sketch Report, drafted by the Secretary of the Commission, and Remarks thereon.

THE Report drafted by M. Robin as a sketch to form the basis of discussion was considered in Commission, and the alterations and amendments proposed are here given.

The following are the observations and alterations that were suggested, none of which met with dissent in principle, though the precise wording to carry them into effect was not decided on. Portions of these alterations were carried out by the Secretary in draft, but others were not effected because there was not time to do so in the same séance.

and possibly he may have desired more detailed instructions from the President on a few points. It was left to the Secretary to draft the Report so as to comply with the views of the Commission when it would have been reconsidered as a whole.

Folio 2 [p. 3] Instead of "*avant de se séparer*," to insert "*avant de terminer cette partie de l'enquête*." This was agreed to in principle for the reason given, viz., that so far we had only completed evidence as to claims.

John 4 (p. 3). To omit the words 14-17 through, because though some had stated that they had lost papers, many had no books and such accounts as were produced could not show stock in hand on the day of the insurrection—in fact, many reasons were given.

Folio 3 [p. 4]. It was suggested to modify the expression underlined* because we had no sufficient evidence on the subject. The words in lieu suggested were that no great number of persons had fortunes exceeding 200,000 piastres.

document before the Commission on the subject was an unsigned, unattested paper, said to be a translation of a document furnished by a Tunisian Custom-house notary. It was not the best evidence that could be got. It was decisive, for the reason that it did not show the effect of coasting trade or of goods imported from Tunis.

Folios 8 and 9 [pp. 4-5]. To omit the lines ruled through, because it was not supported by sufficient evidence; besides, its accuracy was not established.

Folia 11) [p. 5]. To be modified as not being sufficiently descriptive of what occurred

Footnote 14 [p. 5]. To omit the words underlined at lines 4 and 5, because they convey too much. There was no formal decision arrived at by the Commission on the subject of claims for money and jewels lost.*

From line 6 [commencing En, and ending constater] inclusive to be erased. Claims for amounts said to be lost were placed on one side, because the Commission decided that it was not in its competency to consider claims for property and cattle placed beyond the immediate precincts of the town. The French members were very firm on this point (see *procès-verbal*, fourth séance, 11th September); therefore the words underlined* should be erased, and the wording of the *procès-verbal* inserted in lieu.

para. 15 p. 6. Words in article 10, as 13 and 14, should run "European is may recover for 1 part of his property."

For the first time, the words underlined* (lines 7 to 10), because it is
 for the first time and frauds were by no means unfrequent

6]. To omit the words underlined,* because the Commission acted on the basis of the information available to it at the time, and it is not its task to second-guess the Commission's findings.

the same paragraph previously written on the subject by Captain Fryer, by request, who has the subject now being considered. As it stands, the paragraph does not accurately describe the conditions of the sponge fishing trade. Many of these fishermen or their vessels range hence to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. The President

and that s is the probability of a person i in a particular observation t being observed with a particular value of s .

"(1) spongers mark out the areas to be harvested by their way of carrying their sponges, have lost the right to be allowed to sponge in the area their sponges mark out, and have the appearance which is apparently used at S. 5, 1, which is repudiated by their takes of sponges. The condition of affairs is this: By the fact that the S. 5 are encroaching the trade and business on the coast, they have killed the supply of water and provisions to the boats which are in a position to fish for sponges. It is denied possibly the carrying of their takes. It may have occurred to them to leave the coast. On the other hand, the fishers may return to the coast and sponge elsewhere. They may have decreased their takes to points, fewer points, and they may withdraw from points. There is no reason to suppose the boats have been hurt. The Commission has not expressed any opinion as to the validity of claims for indemnity which arise for advances made to the sponge-fishers, but have placed them on one side without prejudice to the claimants."

Folio 20 [p. 7].—To omit the words underlined* for the reason that I was quite unaware that what could properly be called public opinion had ever expressed itself on this point.

To insert a paragraph to the effect that the Commission had not taken into consideration claims which resulted from the military occupation of Sfax. It had referred claimants

* Printed in Mexico.

to the authority that had authorized the expenditure on that account. Captain Marquessac entirely concurred in this, and made the following transcript of the suggestion, viz. :—

"La Commission n'a pas pris en considération les réclamations qui résultent de l'occupation militaire de Sfax, il n'a qu'invité les réclamants de s'en rapporter à l'autorité qui a autorisé ces dépenses."

At the suggestion of Captain Marquessac a paragraph referring to Alfa was prepared to be added to the Report. It was before the Commission, and was not dissented from. It ran thus :—

"With reference to the claim for Alfa, destroyed or damaged, the sums suggested by the Commission are apparently large. They personally visited the yards, and examined the space occupied by the burnt stacks, and sought information from the best sources on the subject, and they have dealt with a certain quantity as a total loss. With reference to the Alfa that was not burnt, but from various circumstances attending the capture and occupation of Sfax was used, destroyed or lost, the Commission has endeavored to reach an appreciation of the loss sustained by books, papers, etc., etc., etc., during the revolution, and by comparing it with what remained they were able to fix a sum which appeared to be just."

Sketch Report, drafted by M. Robin, to form a basis on which a final Report could be made, showing the Amendments, so far as they had been drafted by M. Robin.

Amendments, so far as carried into effect by the Secretary, M. Robin.

Sketch of Report.

La Commission fut constituée le 29 septembre 1870 à bord du cuirassé "Le Tonnerre" à Blat, sous le commandement de M. le Capitaine Vassier. Elle fut présidée par M. le Capitaine Vassier.

Le 29 Septembre suivant elle commença ses opérations à Sfax, où elle les a terminées après avoir tenu quarante séances, pendant lesquelles elle a entendu plus de 400 témoins ou réclamants. Avant de se séparer, les membres de la Commission ont jugé nécessaire de résumer en un rapport de leur travail, les conclusions auxquelles ils sont parvenus. Les conclusions auxquelles ils sont parvenus sont les suivantes : Les biens des Français qui se trouvaient à Sfax, au moment de la révolution, comprenaient des immeubles ou des objets endommagés ; des marchandises, des espèces, des bijoux, et des titres notariés disparus. Un certain nombre d'entre elles portaient également sur des animaux, des troupeaux, et des propriétés immobilières placées à des distances plus ou moins grandes de Sfax.

Enfin, quelques-unes formulaient nettement des demandes en dommages-intérêts, pour des transactions commerciales interrompues, ou pour des professions compromises.

Or, à part de très rares exceptions, les plaignants n'ont pu produire à l'appui de leurs réclamations aucune preuve tirée de leurs écritures ou de leurs livres de commerce.

Presque tous ont répondu sur ce point, que ces preuves avaient péri au même temps et par les mêmes causes que leurs biens.

En l'état, la Commission ne pourrait s'éclairer que par des témoignages, qu'elle n'a

*Between "dans" and "leur" interpolate "cette partie de."

Omit paragraph from "Presque" to "leurs."

Amendments, &c.

Sketch of Report.

pas manqué, en effet, de recueillir avec le plus grand soin, et de multiplier de façon à les contrôler les uns par les autres. Ces témoignages elle n'a pas voulu les recevoir en séance de peur que la crainte de se compromettre vis-à-vis de leurs concitoyens n'inflût sur les déposants, mais chaque membre a pris de son côté des informations particulières, qui, comparées les unes aux autres, ont permis d'établir la situation personnelle des réclamants d'après une moyenne suffisamment approximative. Il est, d'ailleurs, un point sur lequel la vérité s'est faite sans difficulté, c'est qu'à Sfax les fortunes sont rares, qu'elles ne dépassaient pas 500,000 à 600,000 piastres, et que quatre ou cinq personnes à peine pourraient y prétendre.

Ces renseignements généraux étant acquis, la Commission s'est consultée sur les règles qu'elle devait suivre relativement aux diverses catégories de demandes qui lui étaient soumises.

Pour les immeubles détruits ou endommagés la solution était simple, les experts seuls pouvaient la donner.

Pour les marchandises, la relevé des entrées et sorties dressé par l'Administration de la Douane et les informations particulières, dont nous avons parlé plus haut, ont été surtout des guides qui devaient conduire la Commission à une appréciation, sinon mathématique au moins aussi rapprochée que possible de la vérité.

Quant aux titres de propriété et aux objets mobiliers que les réclamants prétendaient avoir perdus, les deux premières catégories, avoir abandonnés et n'avoir pas retrouvé, le premier soin de la Commission a été de s'informer auprès de l'autorité locale s'il y avait possibilité de les faire rétablir. Il lui a été répondu que quelques-uns des titres notariés avaient été détruits, mais que les autres, en raison de ce que les titres notariés étaient enregistrés chez le Cadi, et que les registres de ce magistrat étaient intacts. La Commission s'est alors empressée de faire par la Résidence Française auprès du Gouvernement Tunisien une démarche à la suite de laquelle M. le Gouverneur de Sfax a reçu des instructions pour faciliter à chaque intéressé la délivrance d'une duplicata des actes qu'il avait perdus.

Jusqu'à présent deux personnes seulement se sont plaintes de l'insuffisance de cette mesure ; parce que, disent-elles, les titres qu'elles réclament remontent à une date antérieure à 1860, époque à laquelle il est devenu obligatoire. A cette objection la Commission répond que les obligations restées impayées depuis seize ans représentent une valeur au moins douteuse, et que,

Between "rues" and "prétendre" put instead :—"et que peu de personnes peuvent prétendre à la possession d'un capital de 200,000 piastres."

Between "marchandises" and "Douane" put instead :—"les renseignements puisés à la Douane nous ont été utiles dans une mesure limitée, et uniquement pour connaître l'importance des envois d'Europe, mais la nature de notre tâche."

From "au moins" to "aussi," put :—"suffisamment rapprochée," omitting "que possible"

Omit this paragraph as far as "conclusions"

dans tous les cas, les débiteurs ont dû être auprès de l'autorité locale l'objet de poursuites si nombreuses qu'elles deviennent à elles seules un acte de notoriété. Il suffit, d'ailleurs, que le créancier prête serment qu'il n'a pas été désintéressé, pour que les poursuites soient continuées.

La certitude de trouver une satisfaction aussi complète sur ces trois premiers points était déjà pour les réclamants la sauvegarde de la plus grande partie de leurs intérêts. Quelle décision devait-on prendre relativement aux espèces et aux bijoux, qu'on prétendait avoir abandonnés pour fuir?

L'enquête a procuré d'une manière certaine,

1. Que depuis deux mois environ la population de Sfax était préparée aux événements, et que dans cette appréhension plusieurs familles ont quitté cette ville bien avant le 28 Juin.

2. A l'exception de la famille de l'Agent Consulaire de France et de M. Solal, les Européens et les Juifs ont pu s'embarquer sans être molestés par les indigènes; des Notables même, accompagnés d'une garde armée, les ont protégés jusqu'à l'embarcadere. C'est dans ces conditions que l'embarquement a pu continuer jusqu'à 6 heures du soir.

3. Depuis le jour où a éclaté l'insurrection jusqu'à celui du premier bombardement, c'est-à-dire du 28 Juin au 5 Juillet, des communications ont existé entre la ville et le camp; et jusqu'au meurtre du Malak (le 29 Juin dans l'après-midi), les réfugiés eux-mêmes et les indigènes ont par des indigènes au camp, transmis ces communications. Ces communications ont donc permis de savoir beaucoup d'argent et l'argent des Juifs.

Donc, les déclarations de la Commission pouvait-elle accepter purement et simplement les déclarations, qui, sous prétexte de bijoux et d'espèces abandonnés, étaient si facilement la fraude?

La Commission ne l'a pas cru et elle a rejeté ces déclarations. Les demandes ne seraient prises en considération qu'autant qu'elles seraient appuyées sur des preuves. Ce dernier cas ne s'est jamais présenté. En revanche, elle a repoussé sans exception les demandes concernant les animaux, les troupeaux, et les propriétés immobilières placées en dehors des dépendances immédiates de la ville. Cette décision lui paraît justifiée par la considération que, de l'aveu même des réclamants, les pertes qu'ils prétendent avoir éprouvées de ce chef étaient purement hypothétiques, puisque aucun d'eux n'avait pu se rendre sur les lieux pour les constater. Il convient d'ajouter, en

ce qui concerne les animaux et les troupeaux confiés aux Arabes, qu'il intervient entre les parties des baux de cheptel parfaitement réguliers, et que leur exécution n'a jamais provoqué la moindre difficulté. On peut donc admettre que, dès que la tranquillité sera rétablie les Européens rentreront dans cette partie de leurs propriétés.

La décision à prendre relativement aux demandes en indemnité exprimées relativement à des catégories commerciales interrompues ou à des professions compromises rencontrait plus de difficulté. Ces demandes ont, d'ailleurs, été très rares: on en trouvera l'énumération dans les requêtes et on pourra juger de l'exagération des sommes que la Commission aurait dû accorder si elle avait voulu suivre les réclamants dans leurs déductions d'une logique purement spéculative. Elle a donc pensé qu'elle ne cesserait pas d'être équitable en restant dans les limites strictes de son mandat et en cherchant simplement à compenser les dommages du présent sans prétendre à assurer un avenir qui, en dehors même des événements de la nature de ceux qui se sont passés à Sfax, est soumis à tant de chances diverses. Toutefois, certaines situations s'imposent à la sollicitude de la Commission. Ainsi, elle propose d'accorder aux propriétaires d'immeubles trop endommagés pour pouvoir être immédiatement habités, une indemnité représentant leurs frais de logement et de nourriture pendant trois mois.

Enfin, il est une dernière catégorie de demandes à laquelle on a dû opposer également une fin de non recevoir absolue; c'est celle des demandes en remboursement des avances faites par les négociants en éponges aux pêcheurs qui n'ont pu disparaître. En effet, rien n'empêchait ces pêcheurs, non seulement de revenir à leurs occupations, mais encore de revenir à Sfax après le rétablissement de l'ordre, rendre leurs comptes aux négociants qui les employaient; ils ont pu également, comme la Commission en a eu la certification morale, se diriger sur d'autres points et y déposer leurs éponges. Ceux qui ont profité des événements pour disparaître sont uniquement de malhonnêtes gens justiciables des lois, qui punissent l'estroquerie. Ils pourraient être atteints et forcés à restituer ce qu'ils ont indûment gardé. D'un autre côté, est-il admissible que des hommes qui n'ont pas d'autre ressource qu'une pêche, qui ne se pratique que dans des rares régions, consentent à renoncer à jamais à leur profession, pour la somme relativement modique qu'ils ont gardée? Il n'y a pas lieu de le croire.

Telles sont les règles que la Commission a suivies dans l'examen des réclamations soumises à son appréciation, et malgré les

"inquiète de l'avenir."

A de très rares exceptions près, parmi lesquelles on compte la famille de l'Agent Consulaire de France et M. Solal, les Européens et les Juifs ont pu s'embarquer sans être molestés. Cependant, il n'est pas douteux, quo dans le premier moment une panique a pu se produire, et qu'un sauvetage général vers la plage a dû être la conséquence; mais, ce premier moment passé, plusieurs personnes voyant que le risque était moins grand qu'elles n'avaient pu le craindre, se sont embarquées avec moins de précipitation; des Notables même ont protégé leur retraite, et elles ont eu le temps d'emporter leurs effets et de sauver des objets précieux. C'est ainsi que l'embarquement a pu continuer jusqu'à 6 heures du soir.

Omit.

réductions qui en ont été la conséquence, l'ensemble des indemnités qu'elle propose d'accorder aux habitants Européens de Stux s'élève à la somme de ^{millions, sup} _{la valeur que l'opinion} ^{pu} publique assigne aux pertes réelles causées par la rébellion du 29 Juin.

Inclosure 10 in No. 318.

Procedure in Commission, and Observations thereon

THERE were six Commissioners on the Sfar Commission, one English, three French, one Italian, and one Tunisian. The Tunisian Commissioner was provided with a Secretary, who spoke Italian, Arabic, Maltese, and French, a M. Allegro, a French subject. Captain le Comte de Marquessac was elected President, and M. Robin the Secretary of the Commission, both French Commissioners.

My Italian colleague and I had one Private Secretary each. No means of duplicating papers was adopted, and there was no printing press. The Private Secretaries took notes of evidence throughout independently. At the conclusion of the day Mr Robin, who for the first days was quite unaided and nervously overworked, wrote out the evidence of each day in the form of a résumé, and drew up a process-verbal purporting to be a summary of each day's proceedings. These papers usually were given to my Secretary the next morning to be copied on his return on board in the evening, to be given in turn to the Secretary of my Italian colleague the next morning, and to be retained to the Secretary of the Commission the following day. Thus practically two days always elapsed before copies of these papers were in the hands of the Commissioners, and not unfrequently more.

During the first days we were somewhat more precise, till our self-imposed rules as to taking evidence &c. were settled.

We all agreed that to facilitate the work with a short staff we would consider the papers to be in a work the distinct understanding that all was subject to a final revision. Thus I left on the train, unnoticed that on the 23rd September (though I had formally brought before the Commission the question of payment for the use of magazines and stores for military purposes by the troops, when it was decided by the Commission to order all claimants on such accounts to the department that authorized the expenditure, from some cause the decision on the subject was not recorded.

My Secretary reminds Mr. Rouvier that a revision on three different occasions. Of course, I should have said that was recorded when in due course the final revision was made. It is no particular advantage, for the fact is established by the correspondence that took place with the Commission and I, and with Mr. Rouvier at Paris. I went on it to show that there were no prices. I may have been a quarter of a century and received this was so that I gave it, the really were not so but were still subject to additions and corrections. It is later they were treated for the time as matters of so little importance that they were not. One day the 7th October, has not been made; in fact, as they stand they are drafts written by the Secretary of the Commission, awaiting approval and adoption.

The evidence I send home in French is a copy taken by my Secretary of the official résumé made by M. Robin for the Commission. My Italian colleague has the same.

The notes taken by the Private Secretaries were written with the view of being a check, and of eliminating any material error that might arise in a possible circumstance when we consider the number of languages spoken. But even less kept they occasionally contain matter which the Secretary of the Commission ought to consider necessary to insert in his résumé, which, however, generally appeared to me to be fully done.

It will be gathered from the above that the evidence of the witnesses is alone the guide for forming an opinion.

There was no adequate Secretariat arrangement or method of keeping properly verified accounts of daily proceedings, and no means were adopted to duplicate papers sent

(Signed) G. TRYON,
Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Texas.

Inclosure 11 in No. 318.

*Final Report on the Events which attended the Siege and Fall of Sfar, June and July 1891,
by Captain Tryon, Her Majesty's ship "Monarch."*

WHEN reading over the record of evidence taken by the Sfax Commission, there are two names that recur so frequently that they appear to call for notice, they are "Chacal" and "Goulet".

[illegible][illegible]

4 It does not appear that any animosity was displayed by the Mahomedans against the Christian races; on the contrary, many of the former helped the latter to embark. However, a few shots were fired from the French, some boats were fired at, but on the day of the "Chacal" were fired at, but it does not appear that any shots were fired at the Christian or Jewish inhabitants. However, the following day a Maltese was killed; it was said he was mistaken for someone else.

For many weeks previous a sense of insecurity had existed in the town, and shortly before the 25th June, 1947, the evacuation of the families of a few conspicuous persons, notably that of the French Consul, and his conversion to the shore before the event. The evidence of Mr. Avvocato, and his conversation with the Caid on the 25th June, bears on the subject.

returned to the shore before the evening. The French fleet, under the command of Admiral Guesbriault, consisting of nine iron-clads and six other vessels, opened fire on the defences of the town. The fire was so searching and heavy we may be sure that few, if any, remained within the walls, save those on duty. The French fleet, armed with the latest weapons, was

7. At daybreak on the 16th the boats of the fleet, armed with 12- and 16-pound guns, formed in line abreast opposite the town, and poured their fire on its defences, which

over the heads of the boats, the guns from the iron-clads and other vessels threw their shot and shell on the town. At this time, we may accept it as certain, that very few, if any, not on duty, remained within the space referred to. Even the number of defenders was not considerable, for the system of defence was for the mass of the people to remain in safety in the houses of the town and to assist only in a distant manner when it should be assumed. These were seen, after the French landed, to run over from distances towards the town, but the open ground on both sides of it was commanded by the fire from the vessels. The armed boats were not at hand, and so, those who were ordered arrived too late to join in the defence.

8. The assault was delivered suddenly with great secrecy and celerity. The defenders did not even fire their big guns. The defence consisted of several little defences. The town gate and that of the Kusko were torpedoed, and in a comparatively very short time the French flag was hoisted over the Kusko, the citadel within the Moorish town. Almost simultaneous to this the French captured the main port immediately in front of the town and the gate and the defence was that in the above was effected. The last operation performed was the taking of the Kusko.

9. At this time very few, save defenders, who had not time to escape, remained within the walls, and they hid themselves, not a few lying hid away for some days until invited to come out; there were but very few prisoners taken. For many hours, extending even over the next day, long after the place was entirely in the hands of the French, occasional shots were fired by Arabs hidden away, who, when they saw the French and fantastically fired at their discoverers, and in an instance in which a French soldier was killed 17th July, and probably in other cases, with fatal effect, to perish the next day. At this time to all intents and purposes the French were in possession of a desert: the only

1. The French were in possession of a desert, 100 miles long, and 10 miles wide, through to the shore to 100 miles, with a network of paths and coasters that the French had hired for the purpose of carrying their stores and fuel for their ships. It is in evidence that some of these men, and a few narrow escapes of being shot by the French troops, and some few were arrested as suspects, and others were compelled to re-embark.

11. Few, if any, unconnected with the French forces slept on shore that night. The next morning the streets were littered with papers and goods. The Bazaar was more than knee-deep in places with articles thrown out from the shops into the street. But few doors could be seen anywhere that had not been forcibly opened either in the Moonish or Christian town, but few houses escaped from being ransacked, or drawers or boxes from being stripped. The houses were principally houses of business, the houses which were occupied by French officers, as shown in the instance of a house belonging to Mr. Leonard. The house of Dr. Lafitte, which was occupied by the French, and by the order of Camouin and turned topsy-turvy, had only certain articles of furniture and a silver service remained. Dr. Lafitte landed as a guide to Captain Vane, who commanded the party of seamen that were in advance on the attack of the town. He availed himself of an opportunity to display the French flag from his balcony, to show that it was French property.

12. On the 19th a notice was posted outside the house the Colonel Commandant occupied, the precise terms of which are not in evidence, but its tenor was to check irregularities on the part of the troops under pain of being tried by court-martial.

13. A large proportion of the witnesses examined possessed strong boxes, very few of which escaped being forcibly opened.

14. The Colonel in command remained in sole command of the town until the 28th July, when the Caid landed, and to some extent resumed his duties.

15. The difficult task now remains to investigate who did all the mischief that indubitably was done by man, omitting, from present consideration, the effects of the shot and shell fired by the fleet.

16. I have placed on paper a series of questions bearing on the subject and I have framed answers to them, and below these answers I have placed the names of the witnesses on whose evidence the answers are based. It may not be quite a full list, but it is substantially a correct one. The dates on which they were examined are placed against them to facilitate reference. An examination of this list will show that the subjects of England, France, Italy, and Greece helped the investigator to come to a conclusion.

Q. 1. Did Moors preserve order during the siege, and protect property?—A. From the evidence of witnesses on this point it appears that they did.

(Cheikh Amour Gheddur, September 14; Cheikh Ali el Masmouni, 14; Abdul el Melk, 15, Mel e Ali el 17, Francesco Debona, 25, Fazio Gini 25; Hamia Berrebba, 29; William Galea, 30; Emmanuele Avvocato, October 15; Abd-el-Kader, 18.)

Q. 2. Did Arms pillage property in the town?—A. Attak Allah, himself a prisoner, says that he was assured that to meet arms imprisoned by Cameroons for pillaging. Nothing like pillaging on a large scale is suggested. Necessarily, perhaps, the evidence on this subject, as given by the witnesses, is for the most part hearsay, or the expression of the opinion of the witness. It also refers to cases in which the Governor of the town ordered houses to be opened to procure arms, &c., for the public service.

(Castelling, September 14; Padorani, 14; Gon, 15; Hossou, 15; Attik Allah, October 20, Amzed, September 21, Roble 24, Cruzat 20, D Carleton, October 1. Mohammed Hadji, 14; J. N. Vacher, 14; Francesco Bergio, 14; Emman Avvocato, 15; Dr. Latite, 16. Mohammed el Feriant, 18.)

Q. 3. Were houses forcibly opened and certain articles removed by order of the court? A. Yes, sir. The evidence on this point is clear. He called a notary to take an account of what was taken.

November 15; Chaloum Habebou, 12; Mahmoud el Zebab, 17; Saïd
Poussi 17; Abderrahman Caba, 20; Giuseppe Paula, 22; Alfonso Parientes,
October 1941.

Q. 4. Were articles belonging to the French Consul and to his relatives and others found in the house? A. Yes. Several items were found belonging to M. Mathy and his son-in-law, Didi Carleton, as well as a box belonging to Robino Azului, which had contained guns.

(Robuto Azufu, September 12; Henri Mattei, 18, Dadi Carleton, October 1;
Ahmed ben Abdou, 18)

Q. 5. Were French soldiers seen in possession of articles taken from the house? Were they seen exchanging Tunisian money for Napoleons, and selling articles?—A. The existence of numerous witnesses of English, French, and Italian subjects, replies with distinctness to each of the above questions.

Parente, 14; S. J. de 11; Giorgio Papia, 11; J. B. Jacquemart, 14; Hesson, 15; Lavi, 15; L. de 20; Barham, 21; Luigi Frendo, 22; Pietro Debono, 22; Fratelli de 23; L. de 24; Gatt, 25; Francesco Debono, 25; Raffaele Caravita, 25; Angelo B. Sutil, 26; Gus. Camilleri, 26; Mich. Montebella, 26; Amab. Ferrugia, 27; Felice Cardona, 27; Giuseppe Cardona, 28; Lorenzo Leonardi, 28; Giuseppe Pava, 28; G. Azzopardi, 29; A. Bartolo, 29; G. Gatt, 30; L. de 31; L. de 32; L. de 33; L. de 34; L. de 35; L. de 36; L. de 37; L. de 38; L. de 39; L. de 40; L. de 41; L. de 42; L. de 43; L. de 44; L. de 45; L. de 46; L. de 47; L. de 48; L. de 49; L. de 50; L. de 51; L. de 52; L. de 53; L. de 54; L. de 55; L. de 56; L. de 57; L. de 58; L. de 59; L. de 60; L. de 61; L. de 62; L. de 63; L. de 64; L. de 65; L. de 66; L. de 67; L. de 68; L. de 69; L. de 70; L. de 71; L. de 72; L. de 73; L. de 74; L. de 75; L. de 76; L. de 77; L. de 78; L. de 79; L. de 80; L. de 81; L. de 82; L. de 83; L. de 84; L. de 85; L. de 86; L. de 87; L. de 88; L. de 89; L. de 90; L. de 91; L. de 92; L. de 93; L. de 94; L. de 95; L. de 96; L. de 97; L. de 98; L. de 99; L. de 100; L. de 101; L. de 102; L. de 103; L. de 104; L. de 105; L. de 106; L. de 107; L. de 108; L. de 109; L. de 110; L. de 111; L. de 112; L. de 113; L. de 114; L. de 115; L. de 116; L. de 117; L. de 118; L. de 119; L. de 120; L. de 121; L. de 122; L. de 123; L. de 124; L. de 125; L. de 126; L. de 127; L. de 128; L. de 129; L. de 130; L. de 131; L. de 132; L. de 133; L. de 134; L. de 135; L. de 136; L. de 137; L. de 138; L. de 139; L. de 140; L. de 141; L. de 142; L. de 143; L. de 144; L. de 145; L. de 146; L. de 147; L. de 148; L. de 149; L. de 150; L. de 151; L. de 152; L. de 153; L. de 154; L. de 155; L. de 156; L. de 157; L. de 158; L. de 159; L. de 160; L. de 161; L. de 162; L. de 163; L. de 164; L. de 165; L. de 166; L. de 167; L. de 168; L. de 169; L. de 170; L. de 171; L. de 172; L. de 173; L. de 174; L. de 175; L. de 176; L. de 177; L. de 178; L. de 179; L. de 180; L. de 181; L. de 182; L. de 183; L. de 184; L. de 185; L. de 186; L. de 187; L. de 188; L. de 189; L. de 190; L. de 191; L. de 192; L. de 193; L. de 194; L. de 195; L. de 196; L. de 197; L. de 198; L. de 199; L. de 200; L. de 201; L. de 202; L. de 203; L. de 204; L. de 205; L. de 206; L. de 207; L. de 208; L. de 209; L. de 210; L. de 211; L. de 212; L. de 213; L. de 214; L. de 215; L. de 216; L. de 217; L. de 218; L. de 219; L. de 220; L. de 221; L. de 222; L. de 223; L. de 224; L. de 225; L. de 226; L. de 227; L. de 228; L. de 229; L. de 230; L. de 231; L. de 232; L. de 233; L. de 234; L. de 235; L. de 236; L. de 237; L. de 238; L. de 239; L. de 240; L. de 241; L. de 242; L. de 243; L. de 244; L. de 245; L. de 246; L. de 247; L. de 248; L. de 249; L. de 250; L. de 251; L. de 252; L. de 253; L. de 254; L. de 255; L. de 256; L. de 257; L. de 258; L. de 259; L. de 260; L. de 261; L. de 262; L. de 263; L. de 264; L. de 265; L. de 266; L. de 267; L. de 268; L. de 269; L. de 270; L. de 271; L. de 272; L. de 273; L. de 274; L. de 275; L. de 276; L. de 277; L. de 278; L. de 279; L. de 280; L. de 281; L. de 282; L. de 283; L. de 284; L. de 285; L. de 286; L. de 287; L. de 288; L. de 289; L. de 290; L. de 291; L. de 292; L. de 293; L. de 294; L. de 295; L. de 296; L. de 297; L. de 298; L. de 299; L. de 300; L. de 301; L. de 302; L. de 303; L. de 304; L. de 305; L. de 306; L. de 307; L. de 308; L. de 309; L. de 310; L. de 311; L. de 312; L. de 313; L. de 314; L. de 315; L. de 316; L. de 317; L. de 318; L. de 319; L. de 320; L. de 321; L. de 322; L. de 323; L. de 324; L. de 325; L. de 326; L. de 327; L. de 328; L. de 329; L. de 330; L. de 331; L. de 332; L. de 333; L. de 334; L. de 335; L. de 336; L. de 337; L. de 338; L. de 339; L. de 340; L. de 341; L. de 342; L. de 343; L. de 344; L. de 345; L. de 346; L. de 347; L. de 348; L. de 349; L. de 350; L. de 351; L. de 352; L. de 353; L. de 354; L. de 355; L. de 356; L. de 357; L. de 358; L. de 359; L. de 360; L. de 361; L. de 362; L. de 363; L. de 364; L. de 365; L. de 366; L. de 367; L. de 368; L. de 369; L. de 370; L. de 371; L. de 372; L. de 373; L. de 374; L. de 375; L. de 376; L. de 377; L. de 378; L. de 379; L. de 380; L. de 381; L. de 382; L. de 383; L. de 384; L. de 385; L. de 386; L. de 387; L. de 388; L. de 389; L. de 390; L. de 391; L. de 392; L. de 393; L. de 394; L. de 395; L. de 396; L. de 397; L. de 398; L. de 399; L. de 400; L. de 401; L. de 402; L. de 403; L. de 404; L. de 405; L. de 406; L. de 407; L. de 408; L. de 409; L. de 410; L. de 411; L. de 412; L. de 413; L. de 414; L. de 415; L. de 416; L. de 417; L. de 418; L. de 419; L. de 420; L. de 421; L. de 422; L. de 423; L. de 424; L. de 425; L. de 426; L. de 427; L. de 428; L. de 429; L. de 430; L. de 431; L. de 432; L. de 433; L. de 434; L. de 435; L. de 436; L. de 437; L. de 438; L. de 439; L. de 440; L. de 441; L. de 442; L. de 443; L. de 444; L. de 445; L. de 446; L. de 447; L. de 448; L. de 449; L. de 450; L. de 451; L. de 452; L. de 453; L. de 454; L. de 455; L. de 456; L. de 457; L. de 458; L. de 459; L. de 460; L. de 461; L. de 462; L. de 463; L. de 464; L. de 465; L. de 466; L. de 467; L. de 468; L. de 469; L. de 470; L. de 471; L. de 472; L. de 473; L. de 474; L. de 475; L. de 476; L. de 477; L. de 478; L. de 479; L. de 480; L. de 481; L. de 482; L. de 483; L. de 484; L. de 485; L. de 486; L. de 487; L. de 488; L. de 489; L. de 490; L. de 491; L. de 492; L. de 493; L. de 494; L. de 495; L. de 496; L. de 497; L. de 498; L. de 499; L. de 500; L. de 501; L. de 502; L. de 503; L. de 504; L. de 505; L. de 506; L. de 507; L. de 508; L. de 509; L. de 510; L. de 511; L. de 512; L. de 513; L. de 514; L. de 515; L. de 516; L. de 517; L. de 518; L. de 519; L. de 520; L. de 521; L. de 522; L. de

Q. Were there many iron safes (coffres-forts) in the town, and were they generally broken open? There were many in the town, and but very few indeed remained intact.

(Luigi Subetta, September 10; Giorgio Papis, 11; Felice Cardana, 27; Leadbetter, October 4; E. Arvocato, 15).

And the members of the Commission, when they visited damaged houses, saw that the iron safes of the occupants were broken open.

Q. 7. Were French soldiers seen to remove things from houses and magazines?—
A. The evidence is certainly in the affirmative. Hides, &c., bales of goods, as well as other things were removed and improperly appropriated.

(H. Matter (Dep. Tapal), September 11; Briguone, 15; Ignazio Barbara, 21; Luigi Frendo, 22; Francesco Debono, 25; Antonio Bartolo, 29, Giuseppe Ingharri, October 1, F. Avvocato, 9, Salvatore Scordino, 9, Clemente

Zirah, 10; Amram Essaigh, 11, Fortunato Cutajar, 11; Isaac Didi, 11; Giuseppe de Filippi, 11, Gaetano Lungo, 12; Giuseppe Escano, 12; Giuseppe Traverso, 13, Pasquale Ajello, 13, Antonio Nicastro, 13; Salvatore Lipari, 14; David Spiteri, 15).

Q. 8. Does it appear in evidence that articles pillaged from Sfax were offered for sale at other ports, and what ports?—A. They were at—

Malta.—Isaac Didi, October 10; Lorenzo Spiteri, 12.

Tripoli.—C. Ellub, September 30.

Tunis.—Israel Zirah, October 10; Salomone Elhidaglia, 10; Fratelli Amato, 10; Isaac Didi, 10; Carlo Moriglione, 12; Lorenzo Spiteri, 12.

Djerba.—A. Parientes, October 12; David Spiteri, 15.

Q. 9. Were any houses improperly opened by French persons in authority and goods removed?—A. The evidence is in the affirmative, notably by the authority of the French Consul.

(Enrico Gatt, September 25, Giuseppe Spiteri, 29, Rafaele Caravita, 25; Antonio Bartolo, 29; P. Ciantar, October 2; Giuseppe Leonardi, 2; R. Carleton, 2; Canneto Avvocato, 8; Salvatore Scordino, 9; Alfonso Parientes, 12; Lorenzo Spiteri, 12; Dr. Lafitte, 16.)

Q. 10. Were doors of houses and stores broken open after the fall of Sfax?—A. The evidence is in the affirmative.

(Cosentino, September 15; Giuseppe Pavia, 28, Michel Debono, 29, F. Avvocato October 9.)

Q. 11. Has a list been given of houses and magazines broken open after they had been nailed up, sealed, and marked as British property, and that some days after the capture of the town?—A. Yes, the list, bearing the signature of the British Consular Agent, has been furnished, as follows:—

| Name. | Description. | When unsealed. |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Clemente Ellub | Store | 1 day before |
| P. Debono | House | 1 |
| Giuseppe Zamboni | House and store (in one) | 1 |
| Pavlo Mangion | Magazine | 1 |
| Guise Spiteri | House and store (in one) | 1 |
| Michel Avvocato | Magazine | 2 |
| Laborato Avvocato | Rooms | 3 |
| Francesco el-Hadji | Store | 3 |
| Francesco Ellub | Store | 3 |
| Guise Camilleri | House and store (in one) | 2 |
| Germana Pisani | House | 1 |

* But delivered intact to the owner subsequently.

The witnesses of the above cases are Antonio Cauchi, Guise Camilleri, and Guise Borg.

(Signed) G. LEONARDI.

Q. 12. Were those who pillaged and looted aided in disposing of the property so acquired?—A. Yes; by those who purchased and stored them.

[See witnesses under Questions Nos. 5, 7, and 9.]

Q. 13. Were any orders given or measures taken to check such illicit trade as is referred to in Question 12, and, if so, were they adequate to the occasion?—A. The only order referred to in evidence is an order on the subject, posted up opposite the Colonel's house on the 19th July. The witnesses whose names were given under Questions 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11, show that no adequate steps were taken.

17. In the face of these questions and answers, what can be the nature of the Report? After reading the résumé of the evidence can it be questioned who are responsible for the losses of the inhabitants, on which claims for indemnity are based? In the voluminous evidence there is not a word that shows that what occurred was directed against the Bey, or against his authorities, or against Christians and Jews in general.

18. It will be remarked that only one French officer, a medical officer testified. However, on the 17th October, the President informed us that the Colonel Commandant

wished to present himself before the Commission the next day; consequently, the forenoon of that day (18th) was set aside for this purpose. When we met in the morning it was announced that the Colonel was unwell. The next morning (19th) the Commission met, and the Colonel or any one else might have come before us. The Caid, at noon, gave an Arab dinner to Colonel Commandant Jamais and the French officers, which we all attended. The feast lasted three hours and a-half at table. His presence before the Commission had been deferred until the afternoon of the following day, but after noon on that day (20th) a letter, which the President allowed me to glance at, arrived. It expressed a wish that a prisoner in goal, one Attik Allah, an insurgent, a notary, and a Tunisian artillery officer, should be examined before him, but that on the afternoon of the following day he would be at our disposal.

19. On the forenoon of the same day (20th), Attik Allah's brother had come in, uncalled, into the Commission room. He stated that his brother was in prison at the instance of M. Mattei, the French Consul. The Commission, having no power in the matter, referred him to the Caid, who in reply, he said, referred him to us.

20. In the afternoon this man, looking very ill, was examined, at the instance of the Colonel Commandant. He was brought from prison, and returned there after examination. Mr. Leonardi has written to tell me that this man was the next day released at the instance of M. Mattei, the French Consul.

21. Thus only two witnesses were called by the French: one to testify as to the condition of a particular house that had been the subject of inquiry, and the other, a Moor from prison.

22. The examination of witnesses, and its range, was left entirely to the discretion of the members of the Commission throughout.

(Signed) G. TRYON,
Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Tunis.

[Plan showing Attack on Sfax, July 16, 1881.]

Inclosure 12 in No. 318.

Final Report on the Examination of Claims based on Losses resulting from the Occurrences at Sfax, June and July 1881.

THE members of the Commission appointed to inquire into the events which accompanied the capture of Sfax, and to examine the claims placed before it, separated on the 21st October, 1881.

The examination of all claims placed before them had been previously completed, and they had decided on sums which, in their opinion, would meet the losses sustained at Sfax from the events which occurred in June and July.

I append a list, on which are enumerated the description of claims that were held by the members of the Commission to be valid, and to be within their competence to consider.

I also add a list of those claims which were placed on one side, and add some remarks on the practical rejection of claims made for jewellery and money, which many persons alleged they had lost.

All claimants, or their approved representatives, were personally examined, and a great amount of evidence was taken from all available sources, so as to enable the Commission to come to a conclusion on each case.

There were few indeed, if any, who could be called disinterested witnesses who were able to help us; it was the exception for a claimant to be able to make a statement of importance in proof of the correctness of his demands; it was very rare for those in business to have intelligible books or accounts, or to produce anything that could give an idea as to stock in hand, or the average amount of their business transactions, unless some had lost all their books and papers. With some reason, perhaps, still more was proof wanting in cases of alleged losses of money and jewellery.

The books of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. formed a marked contrast in this respect; they were full, and well and regularly kept.

(Signed) G. TRYON,
Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Tunis.

Claims held to be Valid.

1. Those arising from the effects of the bombardment.
2. Those arising from losses of stores, furniture, clothes, contents of shops, &c., and property within the walls of Sfax.
3. Those arising from personal and necessary expenses, such as passages to Tunis or Malta, &c.
4. Losses of animals within or immediately without the walls of Sfax.
5. Losses of Alpha, and of the plant, &c., for working it in the yards without the walls.
6. When houses were, on the return of their owners, uninhabitable, a certain allowance (it may be termed rent or cost for displacement), which was not to exceed in any case three months, was named and recommended by the Commission.

(Signed) G. TRYON,

Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Tunis.

Claims for Indemnity that were placed on one side by the Sfax Commission.

1. Claims for hard money and jewels were placed on one side on an early day by the majority of the Commission. I reserved the point throughout. Money and jewels were pillaged and lost; still the losses on that account bear no proportion to the claims, for which there was not any satisfactory proof. The evidence is not adverse to the practice of rejecting claims on this account.
2. Claims based on the alleged loss of animals whose owners lived in Sfax, but which were farmed out to Arabs often at great distances from the town. It is expected that the loss on this account will not be considerable.
3. Claims based on alleged losses of "adoul," title-deeds, mortgages, proof of debt, &c. These papers are registered, and copies still exist. By far the greater part of the amount claimed on this heading will, it is stated, be recovered.
4. Claims for advances made to enable persons to proceed with their business, &c., such as advances made to sponge fishers, who ought to repay in kind, but who, it is alleged, were interrupted or prevented from doing so. Claims for advances made after they had received their advances, were placed on one side without prejudice to the claimants.
5. Claims made, based on what resulted from the military occupation of the town, viz., the use of houses and stores by troops, the use of goods required and taken by the army, &c. These were referred to the Military Department, who sanctioned the expenditure.
6. Claims for profits that it was alleged would have been reaped in due course of business had no *insulte* occurred.
7. Claims made for losses of cattle and property outside the immediate precincts of the town, particularly in the cultivated lands. It was stated that some cattle were taken from Sfax, which up to this date it would not have been safe for us to visit without a large escort. We do not know precisely what loss has been sustained on this account. There is no evidence to show that, save as regards the loss of use and produce for the time, the losses on this account are considerable.

(Signed) G. TRYON,

Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Tunis.

Remarks as to Claims for Money and Jewels said to have been lost.

At an early day in the proceedings claims for money and jewels, said to be lost, left on shore by the claimants when they embarked, and missed on their return, were so conspicuous as to prominently draw the attention of the Commission to the subject, and to the means fugitives possessed of saving them previous to, as well as on the day of, the revolt, and also subsequently. It appeared that a want of security had existed in Sfax among Christians and Jews for nearly two months before the 28th June; that some, even, had left for Malta or Tunis, and others had embarked goods. This feeling was intensified by the embarkation of the families of some conspicuous persons, notably the French Consul and his relatives, shortly before the outbreak. It was the opinion that some, and among them the well-informed, and those who had the most to lose, in all reasonable

probability took care to place in safety that to which they attached most value. Thus led the majority of the Commission to put on one side all claims for money or jewellery. With this I did not concur. I thought that reserved the point, but I found practically that the sums that I considered for usually very roughly approximated, but suggested by those who had so, and there was not often a difficulty in concerning in the lump sum to be suggested to cover losses on all accounts.

Still it was always in my mind, and I repeatedly so stated in Commission, that the probability of great losses of property, especially in certain cases, and especially on the part of those who had no property in their families, who rushed for refuge afloat, and who, on the next and succeeding days, were conveyed in steamers to other ports, and on those who had no means of communicating with the shore after they had themselves once embarked, having neither boats nor boatmen at their command, or trustworthy natives in their employ. As time went on and evidence accumulated, it became more and more clear that no inconsiderable amount was pillaged, some no doubt from Mahomedans and Jews, Tunisian subjects, whose cases did not come before the Commission, but also some, the property of the subjects of European nations. The sums demanded on this head will be found in the papers placed before the Commission by each claimant.

Still, if the Commissioners were now directed to express an opinion on this subject in each case, they would have a task most difficult, even if it were at all practicable, to arrive at anything like a satisfactory conclusion.

If they were to at once reject all claims on this account when claimants had not shown themselves to be fair on other claims, but few would be considered. If they were to reject those that were clearly to their mind improper, still claims for money and jewels far in excess of anything reasonable would remain, and possibly then some such arbitrary rule as the award of a percentage on account of alleged losses would have forced itself on the Commission to be applied in the majority of cases.

I can hardly say it was to be expected that any person would believe in gold in a place like Sfax than a stranger to the habits of the people would believe. The Jews wear costly head-dresses and garments, and have many gold ornaments, even among the poorer classes. The Maltese have nearly all gold ornaments; and in houses where they were expected to have silver spoons and forks, &c. Again, the oil crop, when it is a good one, as it was the case last year, brings in a sum of money in many parts of the country for which there is no particular outlet. I would not be surprised to find people are few and simple. There are no banks of any kind.

(Signed) G. TRYON,

Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Tunis.

Exhibit II in No. 118

Papers showing that at an early day in the Commission it was understood that Evidence as to Pillage would be taken after that given on Claims, and that Witnesses might be Recalled.—October 8.

IN the course of his examination on the 8th October, Atamas Karamis made some statement as to purchasing articles from the French soldiers. The Secretary of the Commission-room and went into the adjoining one, the door of which opened into it, where M. Allegro lay audibly suffering from rheumatic fever. On his return, the Secretary made a statement to the Commission, saying that "the patient," who had not then seen the witness, had told him that he had seen Karamis robbing the dead, and entering all the houses that were opened." To my mind it was quite uncertain whether M. Allegro could know the name of the witness, or even whether he was the person referred to at all; so I observed that, if the witness was to be discredited, it would be better to take his evidence at another time, when all evidence as to pillage, &c., would be taken. This course was concurred in. The note on the subject, taken at the time by the Italian and I, and the Secretary, is here appended.

(Note taken by the English Secretary.)

"This man having completed his evidence as to his claim, it was decided not to further examine him on other matters, that, if necessary, it will be made the subject of a separate inquiry after all the claims have been dealt with."

Copy of a Note taken by the Italian Secretary during the course of a Meeting held on October 8.

"*Atamas Karamis*—Il Signor Allegra, interprete del Generale Djelluli ed ammalato in una camera a parte, asserisce di aver veduto il Karamis a terra il giorno della presa, spogliare i mori ed entrare a visitare tutte le case che erano aperte.

"Il Comandante Tryon osserva che non riguarda questa testimonianza del Karamis come necessaria per rischiare i reclami, se si vuole esaminare la cosa più a fondo conviene separarla e farne un'altra parte della inchiesta.

"Il Presidente aggiunge che fino dalle prime sedute la Commissione dichiarò di non occuparsi di questa parte dell'inchiesta, che non è necessario continuare sopra questo argomento, che non vi è ragione di occuparsene, e che si deve continuare ad interrogare come si fece dal principio dell'inchiesta."

(Translation.)

"*Atamas Karamis*—Signor Allegra, interpreter to General Djelluli, and lying sick in an adjoining room, asserts that he saw Karamis on the day of the capture of the town, spoliating the dead bodies of the Moors, and entering all the houses that were open.

"Captain Tryon observes that he does not regard this evidence of Karamis as necessary in the consideration of claims, and that, if the matter is to be further gone into, it must be separated and made another part of the inquiry.

"The President adds, that since the first few meetings the Commission has decided that it will not occupy itself with this part of the inquiry, and that it is not necessary to prolong discussion on this subject, the Commission having only to proceed in its inquiry as it had done from the beginning."

(Signed) G. TRYON,
Captain and Senior Officer, Coast of Tunis.

Inclosure 15 in No. 318.

Letters written by Captain Tryon and Conti on the Withdrawal of the French Members of the Commission; also Paper read by the President on announcing the Decision of the French Members of the Commission.

Captain Tryon to the President of the Sfax Commission.

Sir,

October 21, 1881.

WITH reference to the extreme measure which the French members of the Commission have arrived at, and of the decision taken by you, M. le Président, I beg to express my astonishment and surprise.

The only question that I am aware of that was before the Commission was as to whether I was entitled to call evidence on the subject of the events which occurred before and after the capture of Sfax.

It was perfectly well known that the English Commissioner had, so far as possible, avoided the subject of, and that he had always regarded, and had repeatedly so stated, that the examination divided into two parts, first, as to claims, and secondly, as to other events.

The very report which we drew up yesterday or a model framed by the Secretary of the Commission shows this. Special attention was drawn to it in the first sheet of that report.

I can only add that I extremely regret the hasty decision after so much patient labour.

I suppose it but remains for me to wait for a copy of the paper the President read before leaving the room in which the Commission held its meetings, in which case I beg to request that this letter may be attached to the other documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

Captain Conti to the President of the Sfax Commission.

(Translation)

October 21, 1881.

Sir,

At a time when the labours of the Commission were drawing to a close under your most able direction it is with the deepest regret that I see thus abruptly terminated the work carried through by all of us with so much care and labour.

The sole discussion raised this morning by the English Commissioner was with the view of establishing whether he possessed the right, which he had notably reserved for himself, of calling witnesses to testify to the events which preceded and those which followed the capture of Sfax.

I am surprised that this could have been the motive for the closing of the meetings, and for the subsequent communication, which informed me that the Commission was therewith terminated.

Considering myself thus exonerated from continuing my labours under your presidency, I have only to express my regret that the honoured mission with which I have been entrusted should be thus brought to a close.

With all consideration, I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONTI.

Paper read by the President of the Sfax Commission.

Attendu que la Commission a établi dans son procès-verbal de la seconde séance que les déprédations qui auraient pu être commises lors des événements de Sfax seraient examinées au cours même de l'enquête;

Attendu que la presque totalité des témoins et réclamants, qui ont comparu devant la dite Commission, ont été interrogés à cet effet;

Attendu que le notaire et le juge de paix de Sfax ont comparu pour la première fois, et ont été interrogés par M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, et que M. le Commissaire Anglais assistait à cet interrogatoire;

Attendu que M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique a insisté pour que l'enquête soit terminée par le procès-verbal qui l'avait précédée, et que le notaire et le juge de paix de Sfax ont refusé de le faire;

Attendu qu'après l'interrogatoire des témoins et des réclamants, les habitants de Sfax ont été examinés par M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, et que les termes du second procès-verbal ne sont pas conformes aux réponses données par les habitants de Sfax, et que le notaire et le juge de paix de Sfax ont refusé de le faire;

Attendu que M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique prétend recommencer l'enquête, et que M. le Président le lui a refusé;

Attendu que M. le Président a le droit de faire constater les contradictions qui existent entre les procès-verbaux et les réponses des habitants de Sfax, et que M. le Président a le droit de faire constater les contradictions qui rappellent;

Attendu que cette prétention s'ajoute à celle qu'il a émise, dans une séance précédente, à l'occasion de l'interrogatoire du Sieur Enrico Gatt, et qui tendait à dénier également au Président le droit de diriger les débats;

Attendu que les Commissaires Français, pour maintenir l'harmonie parmi les membres de la Commission, et pour arriver plus vite à soulager les souffrances des habitants de Sfax, ont fait à M. le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique des concessions dont ils ne sauraient étendre plus loin la limite sans porter atteinte à leur caractère.

Par ces motifs, les Commissaires Anglais déclarent qu'ils se retirent de l'enquête, et qu'ils rendront compte à leur Gouvernement des motifs qui ont dicté leur résolution.

En conséquence, le Président lève la séance, et déclare la clôture des travaux de la Commission Internationale.

(Signed) A. D'AMBOISE DE NARBANT,
G. ROBIN
Le Président, DE MARQUESSAC

Sfax, le 21 Octobre, 1881.

The President of the Sfax Commission to Captain Tryon.

M. le Commandant,

Sfax, le 22 Octobre, 1881

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre que vous m'avez adressée relativement à la décision prise par les membres Français à la séance du 21 Octobre, de se retirer de la Commission de décision qui a conduit le Président à cette enquête.

Je regrette comme vous, M. le Commandant, qu'après de longs et difficiles travaux, nous soyons arrivés à un tel résultat.

La responsabilité n'en incombe en aucune façon aux membres Français de la Commission.

Je vous adresse une expédition des considérations lues par le Président à la fin de la séance du 21 Octobre, et je vous prie de vouloir bien me renvoyer le plus tôt possible les procès-verbaux des dernières séances que vous pourriez encore avoir.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) C^m. DE MARQUESSAC.

No. 319.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 15, 2-40 P.M.)

(No. 98.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, December 15, 1881, 1-30 P.M.

IN my telegram No. 97 of yesterday, for "T. S." and "Morocco" It is Morocco that the French Government is resolved not to touch.

No. 320.

Lord Tenterden to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, December 16, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, by direction of Earl Granville, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent at Tunis, dated 11th inst., to a notice which has been circulated in that city by the French military authorities, advertising for tenders for the supply of their troops.

Mr. Rende points out that, by the 12th paragraph of this notice, tenders can only be accepted from foreigners, and a ban of prohibition is put on French jurisdiction, both criminal and civil; and, as British subjects cannot submit to the jurisdiction of a foreign Power in Tunis without the assent of the British Representative, I am to request that you will favour his Lordship with a reply in which you will state that you will instruct them or the French authorities that no such assent will be given as regards criminal jurisdiction.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 321.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 1120.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 14, 1881

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch to me No. 1119 of the 10th instant, and to your despatch to Mr. Moner No. 142 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I said to M. Gambetta this afternoon that I should be glad to speak to him about Morocco.

He answered that he was happy to have any opportunity of expressing to me his sentiments respecting that country, as he had a very positive and categorical opinion on the subject.

I proceeded to say that M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire had given me, on the part of the late Government, distinct assurances that they would respect the territory of Morocco.

* No. 292.

M. Gambetta replied at once that he gave me the same assurances on the part of the present Government in a still more formal and positive manner.

He went on to say that, looking at the question from a merely strategical point of view, he was strongly opposed to military operations being undertaken in the zone of territory lying on the confines of Algeria and Morocco. Independently even of any international difficulties, he deemed it right that the French troops should be restrained from any invasion of the latter country.

Finally, as I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship, by telegraph, M. Gambetta authorized me to assure your Lordship categorically that the French Government are quite resolved not to touch Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 322.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, December 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 5th instant, informing me of the instructions sent to the Italian Representative at Paris with a view to induce the French Government to give orders for the resumption of the labours of the Sfax Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 323.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 98. Confidential)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 9, 1881.

I HAVE received a letter from Cid Boobekeer, who is at Morocco, dated the 27th November, informing me that the Sultan's order was expressed to the authorities and elders of the town of Tafilet, making known that a population who occupied 45,000 tents* had fled from Algiers and Tunis, and were establishing themselves in the southern parts of Morocco and districts around Tafilet.

The inhabitants of Tafilet apprehended that the French troops, who they reported to be in great force on the frontier, may proceed to enter the Tafilet district in pursuit of these refugees, and they requested to be informed what were the intentions of His Majesty should French troops enter his dominions.

Cid Boobekeer says ten horsemen were dispatched with the Sultan's reply to Tafilet, but that he had not been able to learn the nature of His Majesty's reply.

Cid Boobekeer reports that, in a late audience he had of the Sultan, His Majesty repeated that it was his firm intention to do all that was in his power to maintain friendly relations with the French. How long he can maintain that attitude without the risk of a general revolt against his authority, if the French invaded Tafilet, or other town in Morocco, he does not say.

It is reported that Cid Solymann Ben Kador has attacked some tribes in the district of Angad, within the Morocco frontier.

The French Commander at Tlemsen had allowed Cid Solymann's son to depart from that town, and the fact of these razzias having been made upon loyal tribes of the Sultan led many persons to believe that they have been effected by Cid Solymann, at the instigation of French officers.

The French Chargé d'Affaires, M. de la Boulière, informed me yesterday that he had been directed by his Government to take an opportunity of mentioning to his colleagues that it was their anxious desire to maintain friendly relations with the Sultan.

I replied that by every courier from the Morocco Court I received assurances that the Sultan was animated with the most pacific and friendly intentions towards the French. M. de la Boulière observed that it was to be regretted His Majesty did not give a substantial proof of his good-will by sending a sufficient force to the frontier to prevent Bou Amama.

* This number appears to me exaggerated.—J. H. D. H.

and other Chiefs committing razzias on the Algerine territory. I replied that I supposed the Sultan feared that any force sent for such a purpose would be repelled by the Arab Chiefs and the semi-independent tribes dwelling near the frontier, and that the gravest consequences might ensue throughout Morocco if the fanatical population learnt that the Sultan's troops had been defeated by Bou Amama or other Chiefs hostile to the French. Moreover, I added, that I should have very little confidence in the loyalty of any Moorish troops sent out against these Chiefs, who are regarded as patriotic warriors and not as rebels.

I learn that the Sultan is assembling an army to march into Soos in the spring if affairs on the French frontier do not assume an unfavourable aspect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—When about to close this despatch M. Diosdado called and informed me that he had just seen an article in an Oran paper, called the "Atlas," of the 2nd December, announcing that General Delebœuf's column had arrived at the frontier near Yiche, and that the General had ordered the "goum," or native troops attached to the column, to penetrate as far as Figuig, and that the "goum" had arrived at Figuig without meeting any opposition. The writer of the article suggests that Figuig should be permanently occupied as being the best route for the proposed Trans-Sahara Railway.

It is fortunate that the inhabitants of Figuig offered no resistance to their Mahomedan brethren, the allies of the French. Had they done so we should probably have heard that General Delebœuf's force had been attacked by Morocco tribes, and had been compelled to repulse them and to cross the frontier in pursuit as far as Figuig.

Even if the French Government is desirous of acting with good faith as regards the assurances they have given Her Majesty's Government, and to act up to their professed desire of avoiding complications in this country, it is to be apprehended, as I have repeatedly observed in past despatches, that ambitious Generals will continue to seek for pretexts to invade Morocco.

If the Sultan decides on not opposing French aggression, fearing an attack upon his ports, which are powerless to resist a naval squadron, he will probably lose all power of control over the greater portion of his fanatical subjects, a state of anarchy will follow, and the lives and property of Christians and Jews throughout Morocco will be exposed to great danger, commerce will be paralyzed, and then it is not improbable that there may be even an appeal by some foreign Governments to France to march upon Fez to restore order and to establish another Protectorate.

French Generals may foresee this state of affairs as well as others do, and may therefore seek to bring it about, notwithstanding the assurances which have repeatedly been given by the French Government.

I trust the information given by the "Atlas" of the 2nd instant may turn out to be incorrect with regard to the invasion of the Morocco territory.

J. H. D. H.

No. 324.

Consul-General Playfair to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord,

Algiers, December 10, 1881.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 12 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that information regarding events in the south of Oran is still very difficult to obtain, and very unreliable in its character.

It is not known for certain where either Si Suleiman Ben Kaddour or Bou Amama are, and no one seems to know what the ultimate object of the expedition against them is.

It looks very much as if it were merely a military promenade, and that much is left to the chapter of accidents.

Constant rumours are abroad that the rebel marabouts are preparing another incursion into French territory. The French columns have made many razzias, captured much booty, and ravaged several of the oases, but they appear as far from having pacified the country as ever.

The latest information is that snow has fallen in the region of the Ksour, and that the brigade of Colonel Négrier has been stopped at Maghroum by the bad state of the weather.

There appears to be some fear of troubles much nearer home, and far in the rear of

French columns, as the garrison of Tlemcen has been hastily ordered out to Sebden, leaving only one company in the former town, the gates of which are, contrary to all custom, kept shut from dark till sunrise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 325.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 1131.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 16, 1881.

WITH my despatch No. 1088 of the 5th instant, I transmitted to your Lordship a copy of a note in which, in obedience to your orders, I had inquired of the French Government in what manner they proposed that claims arising out of the operations of the French forces at Sfax, and other places on the Tunisian coast, should be brought before them.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a note which has been addressed to me by M. Gambetta in answer to that inquiry.

It states that the French Government will give the attention that they may merit to claims of the kind, if it is thought proper to submit them through this Embassy; but it contains the remark that, setting aside exceptional cases, the French Government has no legal responsibility for the losses occasioned by the insurrection in Tunis and the measures taken to put it down.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 325.

M. Gambetta to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 14 Décembre, 1881.

DANS une lettre en date du 5 de ce mois vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me demander si le Gouvernement de la République était disposé à recevoir par l'entremise de votre Ambassade, ou bien par toute autre voie, communication de certaines réclamations relatives à des pertes qui auraient été causées à des maisons de commerce Anglaises par les opérations des troupes Françaises en Tunisie, et notamment par le bombardement de Sfax.

Le Gouvernement de la République ne manquera jamais d'examiner avec la plus scrupuleuse attention toute réclamation qui lui sera transmise par votre Excellence. Pour ce qui concerne en particulier les plaintes auxquelles pourrait donner lieu, de la part de certains sujets Britanniques, la conduite des opérations militaires en Tunisie, je suis tout disposé à y apporter l'attention qu'elles méritent, si vous jugez à propos de m'en saisir. Je dois toutefois faire remarquer à votre Excellence qu'en dehors de cas exceptionnels, sur lesquels je ne saurais exprimer d'avance une opinion, les pertes occasionnées au cours de cette année par l'insurrection d'un certain nombre de tribus Tunisiennes, et par la répression qui a suivi, sont généralement imputables à des accidents de force majeure qui ne sauraient créer aucune responsabilité légale à la charge du Gouvernement de la République.

J'ajouterai que la conduite correcte des autorités militaires Françaises et leurs bons procédés à l'égard des résidents Européens ont été reconnus par des négociants Anglais honorables, dont les témoignages rendus publics ont contredit avec force les impressions erronées qui avaient pu se répandre à ce sujet.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) LÉON GAMBETTA.

No. 326.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 1131. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 16, 1881.

SINCE I closed my despatch No. 1131 of to-day, covering the answer of the French Government to my inquiry respecting claims arising out of military operations

at Sfax and other places on the Tunisian coast, I have received a visit from Baro Marochetti, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires here.

He tells me that the day before yesterday he put into M. Gambetta's hand a memoir, complaining of the abrupt closing of the Sfax Commission, and requesting either that the Committee should be reassembled, or that the French Government should indicate some other mode in which Italian claims might be established.

M. Marochetti informs me also that M. Gambetta said that he would make a written answer to the memoir in the same terms which he had employed in an answer he had made to the British Ambassador.

It appears, moreover, that M. Gambetta expressed himself as willing to reassemble the Sfax Commission in order that the members might sign the *procès-verbal*, but as not disposed to allow the inquiry to be reopened.

I mentioned to Baron Marochetti the substance of M. Gambetta's note to me.

He did not propose any joint action in the matter, and I said nothing to lead him to suppose that I thought joint action admissible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 327.

Lord Tenterden to Messrs. E. and E. Arbib.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1881.

I AM directed by Lord Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, containing a statement of your claim on account of losses sustained by your firm at Sfax and Gabes; and, in reply, I am to inform you that the Sfax Commission is no longer sitting, and that Her Majesty's Government are in communication with the French Government on the subject of claims of this nature. I am to add that, as soon as an agreement has been come to as to the manner of dealing with them, the claimants will be duly informed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 328.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18, 4-30 P.M.)

(No. 118.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, December 18, 1881, 1 P.M.

TELEGRAMS from France announce M. Roustan's removal from the post of Minister Resident at Tunis.

No. 329.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord,

Tunis, December 19, 1881.

I FEEL it my duty to report to your Lordship the unfavourable impression produced in this country by the absence of a British ship of war.

I fully admit that the presence here of such a vessel can no longer be justified on the ground of possible insurrection and massacre, contingencies which, it appears to me, are sufficiently guarded against by the occupation of the whole country by French troops; but I am assured the withdrawal of our ships is assiduously pointed out to the Bey and his subjects as a proof that England has fully accepted the present state of things, and has renounced all further interest as to the ultimate fate of this Regency. The effect of these insinuations is considerably heightened by the attitude of Austria and Italy, the former of which Powers keeps a large iron-clad frigate here, apparently for the whole winter, while Italy has three ships (including one iron-clad) on the coast.

The position of England in this country is becoming day by day more painful, and I regret to have to state that the French, headed by M. Roustan, do their best to make this felt amongst the European colony and the native population, and lose no occasion of enforcing their views concerning us in the most disagreeable manner.

I do not for one moment presume to offer even a suggestion on this subject in a political point of view, but I humbly report these passing and patent facts to your Lordship, in case Her Majesty's Government may see fit to station a British ship of war in these waters until a final solution is arrived at concerning the Tunisian difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 330.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 514.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 20, 1881.

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of two despatches, as marked in the margin,* from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, recording his communications with the French Government as to the manner in which claims arising out of the French operations at Sfax and other places should be dealt with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 331.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 1146.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 19, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1197 of the 8th instant, and to my despatch No. 1116 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs acknowledging the communication in which I addressed to his Excellency the thanks which Her Majesty's Government desired to be conveyed to the French naval and military forces on the occasion of a fire on the premises of Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., at Sfax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 331.

M. Gambetta to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 17 Décembre, 1881.

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me transmettre, le 14 de ce mois, les remerciements du Gouvernement Britannique pour les services rendus par le Comte de Marquessac, Capitaine de la "Reine Blanche," et le Colonel Jamais, en sauvant de l'incendie les propriétés que MM. Perry, Bury, et Cie., de Liverpool, possèdent à Sfax.

Ces officiers ont été heureux de trouver, dans l'accomplissement de leur devoir, l'occasion de venir en aide à des sujets Anglais, et je suis très sensible pour ma part à la courtoisie avec laquelle votre Excellence m'a fait part des appréciations que le Capitaine du "Monarch," a bien voulu exprimer sur leur compte au Gouvernement de la Reine.

Agréer, &c.
(Signé) LÉON GAMBETTA.

No. 332.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 836.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1881.

THE Turkish Ambassador has called attention to a paragraph which a "Morning Post" of the 12th instant, relative to an alleged communication from Her Majesty's Government to that of France, in consequence of a statement reported to have

* Nos. 523 and 526.

been made by M. Gambetta in the Senate on the 10th instant, that England had recognized the Bardo Treaty.

Musurus Pasha was informed that the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the Franco-Tunisian Treaty were contained in the correspondence laid before Parliament, and especially in my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris of the 20th May, and that there was nothing to add to these despatches, which certainly dealt with the Treaty as an accomplished fact, although Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to define the meaning of the words used by M. Gambetta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 333.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 27.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 118.)

My Lord,

Tunis, December 17, 1881.

TELEGRAMS have been received from France, announcing that M. Roustan has been removed from the post of Minister-Resident at Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 334.

Earl Granville to Mr. Morier.

(No. 153.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 142 of the 7th instant, and to previous correspondence, respecting the apprehensions entertained by Spain in regard to the possibility of aggressive steps by France against Morocco, I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Lord Lyons,* recording a conversation with M. Gambetta, in which his Excellency repeated the assurances given by the late French Government of the intention of France to respect the territory of Morocco.

I have to authorize you to read to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs Lord Lyons' despatch now inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 335.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord,

Tunis, December 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that, by an "Amar Bey," or Bey's Decree, which was some days ago promulgated, for the first time at Sfax, the native population of that town are ordered to pay into the Tunisian Treasury a war contribution of 10,000,000 piastres, or about 250,000*l.* sterling, the said contribution being, it is believed, destined for application as a fund whereby to indemnify the European sufferers from the late bombardment and pillage of the town.

I need scarcely add that, if this measure is insisted upon, it will amount to the virtual confiscation of the whole place, and seriously affect the interests of the European residents, who are, for the most part, creditors of the natives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

* No. 319.

No. 336.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1253. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, December 28, 1881.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Sir E. Malet,* reporting a representation made to him by Chérif Pasha, to the effect that his negotiations with the French Representative in Egypt respecting the house-tax question had met with an unexpected check in consequence, as it would appear, of the question of the protection of Tunisians by the French being incorporated with this discussion.

Chérif Pasha, as your Excellency will perceive, is most anxious that these two questions should be dealt with separately, and Sir E. Malet has already spoken to M. Sienkiewicz on the subject; and I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will discuss this question with M. Gambetta, pointing out to his Excellency how desirable it is not to allow the two matters to become mixed in any discussion or negotiations on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 337.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 107.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit extracts from a confidential letter I have received from one of the officers at the Court, containing tidings regarding the advance of the French forces to the district between Ard Albeiad and Figuig, about three days' march from Ain Shair.

The Chiefs of the Oulad Sheikh and the Berber tribes dwelling near the Sahara have proclaimed the "Jehad," or holy war, if the French approach their territory.

I think there is exaggeration about the number of fighting men, amounting, as my informant computes, to 500,000; I do not suppose they would exceed 80,000 or 100,000 men, badly armed, though brave, daring, and accustomed to warfare.

The Sultan appears to have done, and is doing, all in his power to dissuade the tribes, who may be disposed to respect his orders, from engaging in hostilities with the French, but I do not expect, as my correspondent intimates, that the wild Berber tribes near the Sahara, or Arabs who have sought refuge in the Moroccan territory, will respect His Majesty's orders or recommendations.

The Sultan thoroughly understands that if he acted otherwise than he has done that the French Government could find a plausible pretext for declaring war, and that his ports would be exposed to attack and capture by French naval forces.

On the other hand, if the French forces cross the frontier, and hostilities take place between them and the tribes in Morocco, a very strong fanatical feeling may be roused throughout Morocco against a Sultan, called "Prince of Believers," who takes no step to defend his country against the Christian invaders, and the consequences which may ensue may be of the most serious character, unless the French withdraw after an engagement within the Algerine frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No 337.

Extracts from a Confidential Letter from the Court, dated December 14, 1881.

I HAVE to acquaint you, confidentially, that every day four or five couriers arrive from Taflelt to the Sultan, and are dispatched with replies the same day.

At this date we hear that the Arabs near Taflelt and the Berbers had sent criers to proclaim the "Jehad" (holy war) against the French if they reach the confines of their country in Gebel Ard Albeiad,† which is near to Ain Shair.

* No. 309.

† Meaning the "Mountain of White Earth." "Djebel Chéoua el Bead" is marked in French map lat. 32° 30', and long. 4° 30', near French frontier.—J. H. D. H.

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The people of Taflelt report to the Government that the French forces are distributed between Ard Albeiad and Figuig up to Dwee Menaa, i.e., a distance of about three days march, and that they are three days' march from Ain Shair.

The Oulad Cid Sheikh who have taken refuge near Taflelt, with the Arabs who have accompanied them and others from the east, amount in all to 42,000 tents. The Berbers of Ait Ata and Ait Ezigg,* and Ait Mergrud, Ait Hadeed, Ait Bogmar and Tezmij, Ait Mesat and Dwee Menaa,† and the Towarek comprise a population of about 500,000 men capable of carrying arms. All these are not obedient to the Sultan's orders, but belong to the districts of the Sahara. These people live in a constant state of warfare, and think of nothing but powder, balls, and death.

As to the inhabitants of Taflelt, they are weak and poor, and have no armed forces of consequence at their disposal, and of late years, since the famines, they have been in distress.

The Sultan desires to avoid conflicts or any dissensions with the French, and has written to all the tribes telling them to do what they can to prevent hostilities against the French and not to enter the Algerine territory.

The question is, however, will these people obey the Sultan's orders?

The Sultan wishes me to keep him informed of any tidings you receive by sea regarding the state of affairs on the frontier.

No. 338.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 1178.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 30, 1881.

THE newspapers announce that M. Roustan embarked at Marseilles for Tunis on the evening of the day before yesterday to return to his post as French Minister Resident in the Regency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

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* 31° lat., about 6° long.—J. H. D. H.

† Dwee Menaa is put in the French Government map of 1849 in 31° lat., and about 4° long. The district of his tribe may, however, extend to 3° long., near the frontier.—J. H. D. H.